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Governor cuts short his speech to legislature, walks out

Congress says Gehlot insulted the national anthem; BJP alleges Congress disrespected Governor by shouting slogans

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

In a fresh confrontation between the Lok Bhavan and the Congress-led government in Karnataka, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Thursday refused to read the customary address prepared by the government and made a two-line address before walking out on the first day of the State legislature session.

The address to the joint session of the legislature ran into 122 paragraphs across 43 pages. However, the Governor had objected to certain paragraphs critical of the BJP-led Union government. Mr. Gehlot left without waiting for the national anthem to be played following which the State government accused him of insulting the anthem.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah receiving Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot ahead of the start of the legislature session in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The abrupt exit led to chaos in the House, with Congress members raising slogans and attempting to gherao the Governor. Marshals intervened and escorted him out amid pandemonium.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah criticised the Governor's action, accusing him of violating constitutional conventions and acting at the behest of the Centre.

"It is the Governor's duty to address the first Assembly session of the year. The Cabinet approved the contents of the speech. Instead of reading the Cabinet-approved text, the Governor delivered a speech prepared by himself, which is unconstitutional," the Chief Minister said.

He alleged that the Governor was functioning as a "puppet of the Central government" and said the State government was examining the option of approaching the Supreme Court.

The Governor's office has not issued any formal statement on the walkout so far.

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Speaker's ruling awaited

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet that met on Thursday decided to wait for the ruling of Speaker U.T. Khader on the matter raised over the "insult" to national anthem by the Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil had raised the issue on the floor of the House. "We will wait for Speaker's ruling before deciding on the future course of action," said a senior Minister.

The Speaker met the Governor after the session.

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge accused the Governor of violating the protocol by not waiting till the national anthem was played.

Tension rises in Manipur after Meitei man's killing

Vijaita Singh
Rahul Karmakar
NEW DELHI/ GUWAHATI

A 29-year-old man was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Churachandpur district of Manipur on Wednesday night, security officials said. The killing was recorded on camera.

Mayanglambam Rishikant Singh, a resident of Kakching, belonged to the Meitei community. He was visiting his Kuki-Zo wife in Churachandpur district.

Fresh tension gripped the State after the killing as sit-in protests were organised in parts of the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley, while people in Kakching district blocked the Indo-Myanmar Sugnu Road to demand justice for the family of the deceased.

Singh, who had been working in Nepal for the past two years, came to Churachandpur on December 19. He had been staying with his wife in Churachandpur since. "On Wednesday evening, unidentified people came to their house and took the couple away. While the wife was let off, the husband was taken a little further and shot dead. A video released by the assailants shows a terrified Singh, bent on his knees, pleading and crying for help," said an official.

Locals block a road during a protest at Kakching Khunou Lamkhai in Manipur on Thursday.

Assam Rifles came to know of the murder through their sources as there was no call made to the police. Around 9.30 p.m., a video of the killing, titled, "No peace no popular governments", was shared on WhatsApp from an IP address based in Guwahati, the official said.

A joint action committee formed in the valley in connection with Singh's death demanded that the case be handed over to the National Investigation Agency.

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), the apex body of Imphal Valley-based organisations, condemned Singh's killing and said it showed the Centre's failure in controlling militants operating in the State.

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NEARBY

20,000 schools fail to renew recognition

BENGALURU
Over 20,000 private schools in the State have violated various rules and have failed to get recognition renewal (RR) from the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) for 2025-26. As per the Karnataka Education Act 1983 and the Right to Education (RTE) Rules-2012, it is mandatory for private and aided schools to get RR done every year. » PAGE 3

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Wreathed in red

Cultural outreach: An artist performs *Theyyam*, a ritual art form of northern Kerala, during an event in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Is SIR about illegal immigration, asks SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned whether the Election Commission (EC) had "clearly and eloquently" cited illegal, cross-border immigration as a reason for holding the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and verifying citizenship of registered voters.

The query from the Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi came even as nearly 6.5 crore names were removed from draft electoral rolls published by the poll body in nine States and three Union Territories. Around 3.26 crore voters in Uttar Pradesh, one of the nine States, received notices asking them to attend hearings and show citizenship credentials.

Justice Bagchi said the poll body had listed only "frequent migration" as one of the reasons for holding the SIR.

"Was the requirement of examination of citizenship in light of 2003 amendments to the Citizenship Act a trigger to hold the SIR in 2025? If so, that trigger does not have an eloquent expression in the SIR notification," Justice Bagchi observed.

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Cabinet clears age relaxation for govt. jobs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To help candidates affected by delay in recruitments over the past few years, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday is learnt to have given a five-year age relaxation for those applying for government jobs.

The process of civil service recruitment in Karnataka has been affected due to several reasons, including over the issue of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes. In September last year, the Cabinet had given a three-year relaxation to candidates.

FULL REPORT ON
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India absent as Trump rolls out his Board of Peace with 19 countries in attendance

Associated Press
Press Trust of India
DAVOS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body that could eventually rival the United Nations – despite many U.S. allies opting not to participate.

India was among the countries not present at the ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among numerous global leaders invited by Mr. Trump to join the Board. India is yet to take a call on it, people familiar with the matter said when asked about the invite. Pakistan, Turkiye, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are among the countries that have accepted Mr. Trump's invitation.

New accord: U.S. President Donald Trump holds the founding charter of the Board of Peace in Davos on Thursday. REUTERS

While Mr. Trump said 59 countries have signed onto the board, representatives of only 19 countries and the U.S. were present at the event at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

"You're the most powerful people in the world." Mr. Trump told the group, ranging from Azerbaijan to Paraguay to Hungary.

"This is not the United States, this is for the world," Mr. Trump said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza."

The event also saw Ali Shaath, former Palestinian Authority official from Gaza who is overseeing the Palestinian committee set to govern the territory under U.S. supervision, announcing that the Rafah border crossing, between Gaza and Egypt, will open in both directions next week.

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Rebate scheme swells revenue, but police warn about the negative consequences

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) collected a whopping ₹258.16 crore in fines in 2025, the highest amount in the last decade, largely attributed to the 50% rebate scheme that was offered twice during the year. However, neither the police nor activist groups are in favour of the scheme, arguing that such concessions have an indirect negative impact on road safety in the long run.

According to the data, BTP's fine collection rose by 204.03% to ₹258.16 crore in 2025, from ₹84.91 crore in 2024. Data shows that ₹134 crore was collected during the rebate scheme windows rolled out in 2025 by the Karnataka government.

A senior police officer argued that the rebate scheme not only discourages commuters from following traffic rules, but is also unfair to those who diligently pay fines. ALLEN EGENUSE J

A senior police officer argued that the rebate scheme not only discourages commuters from following traffic rules, but is also unfair to those who diligently pay fines for their violations.

"The whole purpose of imposing fines is not to fill the treasury, although it is a source of income, but to discipline lawbreakers. Rebate schemes defeat the primary purpose of instilling seriousness among commuters and preventing violations," the officer said.

Road safety

Pravar Chaudhary of Bengawalk, a creative agency that tells stories about urbanisation, echoed similar concerns, adding that road safety is likely to be affected as people may be encouraged to break rules.

Police officials state that Bengaluru witnesses excessive signal jumping, speeding, wrong-side driving, and riding without helmet, all of which pose a direct threat to road safety.

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No immediate threat, but Gambhir under scrutiny

Coaches are ranked on the basis of what their outfits achieve in terms of victories and silverware. In his year-and-a-half in charge, the spunky former opener has had reasonable trysts with both these necessities, but has also courted a fair amount of failure, some of which the pundits have attributed to a lack of consistency in team selection

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

What's it with left-arm pacers and wickets in the first/second over of a match? What is it indeed?

David Willey has 65 wickets in his first over in all T20s, followed by Shaheen Afridi (62), Mohammad Amir (55) and Trent Boult (50). The last-named also has the most first-over wickets (33) in the IPL. Mitchell Starc (26), the towering Australian, is second only to James Anderson (29) for the most wickets in their first over of a Test and heads the list when it comes to ODIs, also with 26 strikes. Guess what all these individuals serve up.

Now, throw Arshdeep Singh into the mix. The Indian left-arm swing exponent's dismissal of Devon Conway in the first T20I in Nagpur on Wednesday was a record 28th time he had taken a wicket for the county in the first two overs of an innings. Just a few days previously, he had dismissed Henry Nicholls in the first over of the final ODI in Indore. In a way, it was a comeback to 50-over internationals for the 26-year-old, who had taken five wickets in the three-match series against South Africa in November-December, only to sit out the first two ODIs against New Zealand.

Arshdeep is perhaps the most standout example of not getting enough game time in the last year-and-a-half, coinciding with Gautam Gambhir's ascension as India's head coach. India's highest wicket-taker in T20Is has featured in a little over 60% of the matches under the Suryakumar Yadav-Gambhir dispensation; he has also figured in just under 45% of all ODIs in the same era, which is hard to imagine given that he is far and away India's most competent and consistent white-ball pacer after Jasprit Bumrah.

It's no secret that Arshdeep is at his most dangerous when he is operating with the new ball, both to left-handers and right because he has the admirable ability to swing the ball away from the former and into the latter. He has age on his side, hasn't played a whole lot of first-class cricket (just 22 matches since his debut for Punjab six years ago) and hasn't had a long history of injuries, therefore he doesn't need 'preserving' and 'managing' like, say, a Bumrah or a Hardik Pandya. Arshdeep is at that stage of his cricketing journey where the more he plays, the better he will get. And yet, for no obvious discernible reason, he watched from the sidelines as New Zealand piled on the runs in the first two games - not enough to prevent India from scoring a four-wicket in Vadodara despite piling up 300 in match one, but muscular enough to make India's 284 in the next outing in Rajkot look positively miniscule.

India's most dangerous bowler in those two matches, and in the decider in Indore, was Mohammed Siraj, on the comeback trail after having been left out of the South Africa series. In 27 overs, he conceded only 124 runs, outstanding considering that New Zealand's scoring rate in the three fixtures were 6.00, 6.02 and 6.74 respectively. Maybe there was a case for resting Siraj for the South Africa ODIs because he had played in all four home Tests, against West Indies and the Proteas, and he showed that he is still the obvious lieutenant to Bumrah in the longer white-ball format.

Siraj's comrades in arms in the first two of those three faceoffs against New Zealand were Harshit Rana and Prasidh Krishna. In a lot of ways, they are very similar types of bowlers, bustling and of the hit-the-deck variety where Siraj is a more rounded prospect and Arshdeep offers so many different nuances apart from just swing with the new ball. For one thing, his angle, left-arm over. For another, his propensity to nail yorkers at the death and to mix up his pace superbly. Arshdeep has an ODI economy of 5.38 to go with 25 wickets in 15 games, so why would one play two almost identical bowlers in Rana (who can hit the ball a long way, as he showed during his maiden half-century in Indore) and Prasidh and pass up the opportunity to unleash a potential match-winner?

The Arshdeep situation is just one of many instances where India's team selection has been confusing, if not questionable. Even in the Virat Kohli-Ravi Shastri management age when India didn't repeat a Test XI for nearly 35 games, one could see a certain logic in the way the duo went about things, even if one didn't necessarily agree with the methodology. With Gambhir, alongside Shubman Gill in Tests and ODIs since June, and with Suryakumar in T20Is from July 2024 onwards, it's hard to see a great deal of method in what can be construed as madness. Cricket, more than any other sporting endeavour, is a game of numbers and it is sheerly on numbers and results that players, teams and coaching staff are judged. It can't be any other way. It's fanciful to want to entertain and play a thrilling brand of positive cricket - aka 'Bazball' - and expect to be absolved of blame when, in espousing the mantra of all-out aggression, defeat comes with the certainty and regularity of night following day. Or is it the other way round? Whether one likes it or not, cricketers and coaches will be estimated on the back of what outcomes they facilitate.

The defeat to New Zealand was India's home Test series loss in a dozen years, their first ever capitulation in their own backyard to the Kiwis

In football, for instance, creative midfielders and sturdy, uncompromising defenders attract nearly, but not quite, the same admiration and respect as the poachers, the born goalscorers who, through habit and experience, have mastered the knack of being in the right place at the right time. Many of these midfielders won't necessarily be the most prolific scorers, several of these defenders will primarily get on the scoresheet when they deliver from set-pieces, but they are still considered in the top echelons because such is the nature of the sport.

Cricketers don't enjoy the same luxury. For them, to put it bluntly, it is perform or perish. And performances come in tangible shapes - runs scored, fifties and hundreds stacked up, wickets taken, five-wicket hauls and 10-wicket bags and, in the 20-over landscape, economy rate. Likewise, coaches are ranked on the basis of what their outfits achieve in terms of victories and silverware. In his year and a half in charge, Gambhir has had reasonable trysts with both these necessities, but he has also courted a fair amount of failure, some of which the pundits have attributed to a lack of consistency when it comes to team selection.

Under Gambhir, India's Test series wins have come at home - against Bangladesh in his very first outing in September 2024 and against West Indies in October, both 2-0 sweeps. Ultimate success in limited-overs competitions are headlined by unbeaten runs in the desert sands of the Emirates in the 50-over Champions Trophy and the T20 Asia Cup, in March and September 2025 respectively. But around these sparkling triumphs are a litany of defeats too - 1-3 in a five-Test series in Australia (India's first series loss down under since 2014-15) but most damagingly, a 0-3 drubbing against New Zealand at home in October-November 2024 and a 0-2 pounding at the hands of South Africa last November.

The defeat to New Zealand was India's home series loss in a dozen years, their first ever capitulation in their own backyard to the Kiwis, and the first time they had lost all matches in a series of more than two Tests. South Africa's 2-0 sweep was their first series victory in India in a quarter of a century. India were once the unconquerables on their own patch, the aura of invincibility built over time through bossing of familiar conditions and the confidence and knowledge that their opponents had to play at better than their best repeatedly to best them. Now, India are hesitant and diffident and timid and fearful, especially on designer tracks laid out in the mistaken notion that India's batters continue to be masters against the turning ball when reality and the slew of defeats clearly suggests otherwise.

As if all these firsts weren't debilitating enough came a 1-2 loss to New Zealand in the ODI series that concluded on Sunday, also the first time the Kiwis had pulled the rug from their hosts' feat on Indian soil. Viewed in isolation, the result shouldn't be such a massive downer - contextually, the series had little meaning, and India rested Bumrah, Pandya and Axar Patel with an eye and a half on the defence of their T20 World Cup crown, which will begin in Mumbai on February 7 against United States. But India still had a gun batting line-up - former skippers Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, new captain Gill, his returning deputy Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul, who stepped up to mastermind a 2-1 victory over South Africa late last year when Gill was out nursing a neck injury.

One would think this batting group would comfortably shade whatever total the Kiwis posted, but despite Kohli's sustained brilliance, that wasn't the case. India didn't help their cause by not necessarily putting out the most prudent XI, nor was Kuldeep Yadav, the middle-overs wicket-taker, going off the boil the best development. Working one's way around realistic possibilities of loss of form is where true mettle lies; India were sadly found wanting and while the players must and will cop the lion's share of the blame, the backroom staff under Gambhir can't hope to get away scot-free. If bouquets are accepted gratefully in success, brickbats in failures are inevitable and must be taken in the same spirit.

There is, it's almost certain, no immediate threat to Gambhir the head coach, but the spunky former opener will be well aware of the scrutiny he will be under, perhaps more than even the players themselves, at the home T20 World Cup. Should India fail to make an impression (read: at least reach the final), public memory isn't so short that it will be readily written off as a one-off. Gambhir needs his wards to rise to the challenge and the occasion, as much for his sake as their own. But he can also facilitate that process, alongside Sitanshu Kotak and Morne Morkel and Ryan ten Doeschate and T. Dileep, through clarity of thought and meticulousness in planning - characteristics that helped Rohit and Rahul Dravid forge a winning combination.

K.R. DEEPAK

THE GIST

While the players must, and will, cop with the lion's share of the blame for their failures, the backroom staff under Gambhir can't hope to get away scot-free

If bouquets are accepted gratefully in success, brickbats in failures are inevitable and must be taken in the same spirit

As India heads into the T20 World Cup, Gambhir, along with the others in the think-tank, need to have clarity of thought and meticulous planning

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Lok Sabha Constituency

Shri S.T. Somashekar
MLA & Former Minister
Yeshwanthpur Assembly Constituency

Shri M. Krishnappa
MLA, Bangalore South
Assembly Constituency.

Shri. T.N Javarayi gowda
MLC, Karnataka
Legislative Council

Shri Nikhil Kumaraswamy
State President,
JDS Youth Wing

Shri Ranganath
Journalist & Founder
Public TV

Shri C. Vamsi Krishna
IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Bangalore West

SPECIAL INVITES

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Actress

Anusha Rai
Actress & Bigg Boss contestant

Aishwarya Sindhogi
Actress & Bigg Boss contestant

Rupika
Actress

Mr. Tarun Sudhir
Film director

Mrs. Sonal
Actress

Karunya Ram
Actress

Mrs. Roopa Iyer
Director and Actress

Apoorva
Actress

Gagan Bhari
Television actress & Reality Show Contestant

Spandana Somanna
Actress & Bigg Boss Contestant

Mrs. Sushmita Jagappa
Actress
(Majabharath Comedy Show)

Ms. Janhvi
Actress, Anchor & Bigg Boss Contestant

SPECIAL INVITES

Ghilli Nata
Bigg Boss 12 Winner

Rakshita Shetty
Bigg Boss 12 Runner-up

Ashwini Gowda
Bigg Boss 12 Contestant

Kavya Shaiva
Bigg Boss 12 Contestant

Raghavendra Hondadakeri
Bigg Boss 12 Contestant

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A BG-BGE

Is Asia-Pacific on track towards elimination of Malaria by 2030?

World Malaria Report 2025, launched in December, provided a mixed bag; while fall in estimated cases in southeast Asia offer hope, rising cases of resistance to artemisinin-based frontline treatment and reduction in funding for malaria programmes raise concern

Ramya Kannan

The World Malaria Report 2025, launched in December, provided a bag of mixed news, five years ahead of the 2030 malaria elimination deadline. While the reduction in estimated cases in southeast Asia provided definite hope, of serious concern were rising cases of resistance to artemisinin-based frontline treatment for malaria, and falling funding for malaria programmes.

Notably, it is the Asia Pacific region that posted much of the good news. The significant reduction was driven by 10 of the region's 17 malaria-endemic countries, bringing estimated cases down from over 9.6 million in 2023 to approximately 8.9 million in 2024. The major reduction in estimated cases happened in Pakistan, and historic lows were reported in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, the second year running. Among the successes being platformed against one of the most crucial emerging threats against malaria treatment also comes from this region, with the Greater Mekong Subregion's success in tackling antimalarial drug resistance finding mention in the report.

The Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) unites 22 governments that are committed to the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030. Sarthak Das, CEO, APLMA, says the "Asia Pacific region has made tremendous progress over the past two decades, but it is not entirely on track to meet the 2030 malaria elimination target."

He goes on to explain the current position: "Progress continues to stay uneven – while some countries have experienced a resurgence of cases, others reported substantial declines, and several have successfully attained malaria-free status. Sri Lanka, China, and most recently Timor-Leste have demonstrated that malaria elimination is achievable with sustained political commitment and consistent delivery."

However, Dr. Das points out that these successes coexist with a concerning plateauing of progress and, in particular, reversal in larger, more complex settings.

He explains that significant risks still persist, primarily due to two major challenges: securing sustainable long-term financing and ensuring last-mile execution in high-burden countries. "The challenges more often are in ensuring disciplined last-mile programme delivery, which is further compounded by the increasing financing shortfalls. The report shows that only about 42% of global malaria financing needs were met in 2024, and funding cuts in 2025 have widened this gap further."

But is the elimination goal within target at all? In fact, India has set itself the target of achieving zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2027, ahead of the 2030 target. Dr. Das says India's target is ambitious, but attainable. "India has made extraordinary progress since 2015, achieving steep reductions in cases and deaths, with many districts sustaining zero transmission for multiple years. India has also demonstrated proof-of-concept for elimination through indigenous projects," he said. However, recent data shows that progress has plateaued and cases have even rebounded in parts of the country, indicating that India is currently off the elimination trajectory required to meet the 2027 milestone, he points out.

Need for action: A health worker using a fogging machine in Assam as part of preventive measures against vector-borne diseases. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Dr. Das explains that to make the leap from control to elimination, three shifts are essential: "First, surveillance must become the central intervention. India needs real-time, case-based surveillance everywhere – including systematic reporting from the private sector, defence services, railways and urban health systems, so that every infection is detected, classified and responded to rapidly."

Secondly, he adds: "Today, five States and the northeast account for nearly 80% of the malaria burden. Success will depend on focused, project-mode execution in these remaining hotspots, while near-elimination States must invest in preventing resurgence."

Thirdly, the continuity of financing and operational discipline must be restored. India must treat malaria elimination as a time-bound national mission, with accountability, sharp targeting and sustained investment through the last mile.

Vaccines for malaria

While factors such as surveillance, vector control and effective case management, have been essential to the achievements of the past years, it was the vaccines that marked a significant breakthrough. Dr. Das says "Both RTS,S and the newer R21 vaccines represent important milestones. Large-scale pilot implementations in Africa have shown that RTS,S, when delivered through routine immunisation systems, can reduce severe malaria and contribute to measurable declines in child mortality. R21 has shown comparable or higher efficacy in controlled trials."

These vaccines have understandably been prioritised for rollout in Africa, where the burden of Plasmodium falciparum malaria and childhood mortality is highest. The countries in the Asia Pacific and the APLMA are actively evaluating how these vaccines could complement existing tools for targetted implementation.

The recent WHO report indicates that while artemisinin resistance has emerged as a serious threat to global malaria control, it has not yet been established in India. Artemisinin-based combination therapies remain the go-to first line of treatment as they are still highly effective.

India, which otherwise has a huge anti-microbial resistance burden on the other hand, "has taken a precautionary approach by institutionalising regular therapeutic efficacy studies, strengthening pharmacovigilance, and rapidly updating national treatment policies when early warning signals emerge." India's emphasis on universal parasitological diagnosis, strict adherence to combination therapy, and avoidance of oral artemisinin monotherapy has been central to preserving drug efficacy at scale, he adds.

Early detection through routine efficacy monitoring, strict regulation of antimalarial use, strong community-level case management – and critically – regional coordination to prevent cross-border spread are the need of the hour, Dr. Das insists. Resistance cannot be managed country by country; it requires collective action. Protecting artemisinin is not just a technical task – it is a strategic imperative for global malaria elimination, he adds.

Funding constraints

The greatest threat today to the success of the malaria elimination programme, however, is not even with artemisinin, it is dwindling financing. Dr. Das says: "At a time when malaria programs are entering the most difficult and expensive phase of elimination, overall international funding has declined. This shortfall is already forcing countries to scale back proven interventions, increasing the risk of resurgence and reversing hard-won gains."

In Asia Pacific, the impact is especially pronounced in high-burden areas that face persistent social and logistical challenges, including those prevalent among mobile and migrant populations and geographically remote communities. Such groups are particularly vulnerable because they often have limited access to health services and are difficult to reach with conventional malaria control measures.

Dr. Das suggests that a fundamental shift in how malaria elimination is financed and owned is required. Global funding will remain important, but it can no longer carry the full burden. National agencies must step up to fill the existing funding gaps, which the APLMA supports by strengthening budget advocacy efforts and building evidence-based investment cases.

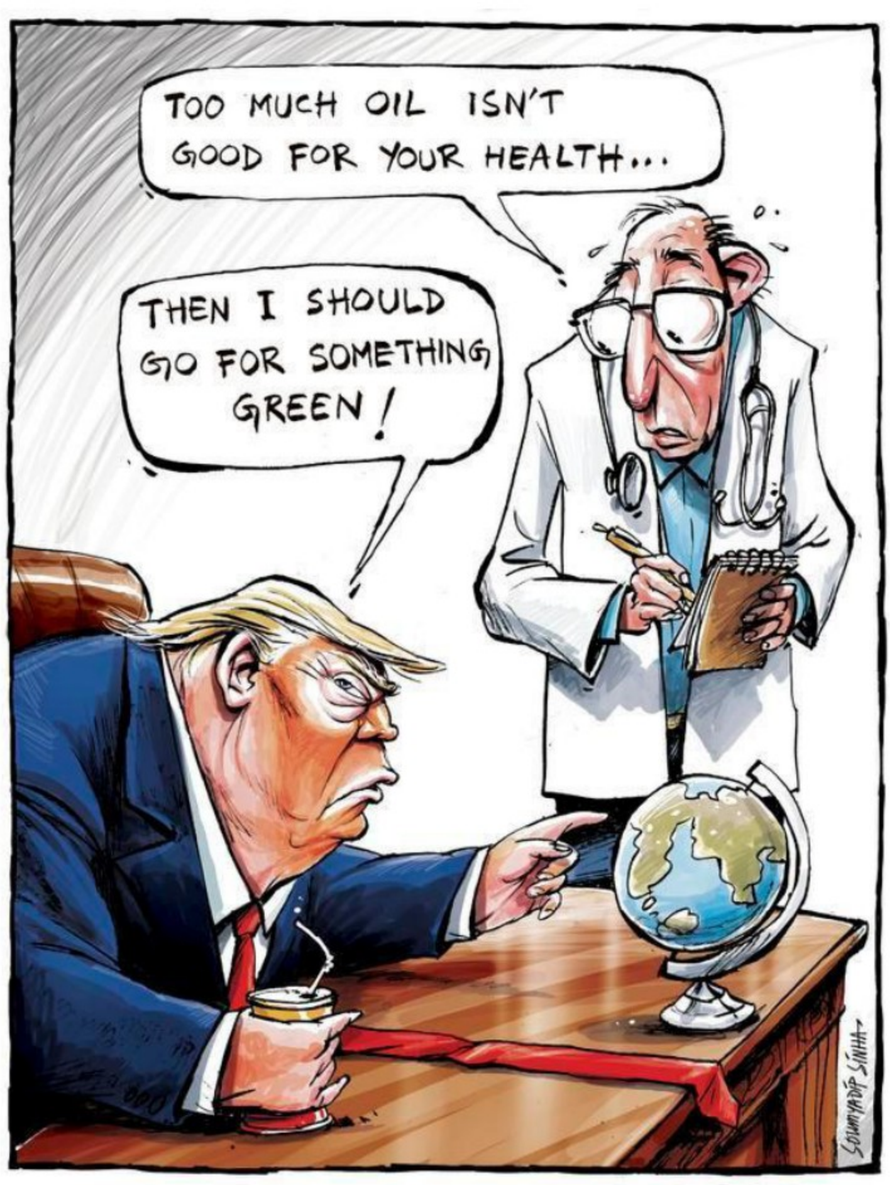
Dr. Das adds: "This is not simply a cost, but an investment. Evidence consistently shows that every dollar invested in malaria elimination delivers multiple dollars in economic return through reduced healthcare costs, increased productivity, and stronger community resilience. Conversely, underinvestment at this stage is far more expensive: resurgence, emergency responses, and avoidable deaths carry a heavy and recurring price."

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

- While the Asia Pacific region posted good news, experts say that significant risks persist, primarily due to two major challenges: securing sustainable long-term financing and ensuring last-mile execution in high-burden countries
- India has set itself the target of achieving zero indigenous cases of malaria by 2027. India's target is ambitious, but attainable, say experts. They add that shifts are essential to make the leap from control to elimination
- Experts say that a fundamental shift in how malaria elimination is financed is required. National agencies must step up to fill the existing funding gaps. Underinvestment at this stage is far more expensive, they say

HUMERUS



Thyroid testing should be driven by clinical suspicion, not isolated symptoms, say doctors

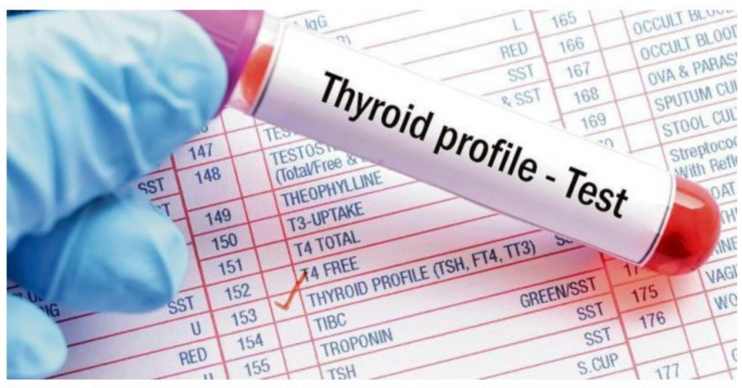
Athira Elssa Johnson

The thyroid is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located at the front of the neck, but its influence extends across nearly every system in the body. It produces two hormones – thyroxine (T4) and triiodothyronine (T3) that regulate metabolism and determine how fast or slow the body functions.

"These hormones influence the speed of our organs and directly affect heart rate, digestion, energy levels and body temperature," said Pearlsy Grace Rajan, senior consultant, internal medicine, Rela Hospital, Chennai. In this sense, she explained, the thyroid acts as a metabolic regulator, keeping the body's systems in balance.

When thyroid hormone levels fluctuate, the effects are felt across the body, influencing on metabolism, menstrual cycles and even mood. According to Usha Ayyagari, senior consultant, endocrinology and diabetes care, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, OMR, Chennai, thyroid hormones act on virtually every cell. They regulate energy use, growth, digestion and temperature, making their role fundamental to overall health.

Thyroid disorders broadly present as either an underactive gland (hypothyroidism) or an overactive one (hyperthyroidism), each associated with a distinct set of symptoms.



Risk alert: Casual testing based on advice from friends, social media or unverified sources is a growing concern among clinicians. GETTY IMAGES

Hypothyroidism may cause persistent fatigue, weight gain, feeling cold, constipation, dry skin, thinning hair, low mood, memory difficulties and a slowed heart rate. Hyperthyroidism can lead to weight loss despite a good appetite, palpitations, tremors, anxiety, excessive sweating, heat intolerance, sleep disturbance, loose stools and menstrual irregularities. Neck swelling or goitre may be seen in some cases.

The difficulty, doctors say, lies in the fact that many of these symptoms are common in modern life. Ravikiran Muthuswamy, endocrinologist, senior consultant, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, said the thyroid remains one of the most misunderstood organs in clinical practice. "Many people walk into the clinic already convinced they have a thyroid problem, even before any tests are done," he said.

When it comes to symptoms, "the overlap is huge," said Dr. Ravikiran. Stress, poor sleep, dietary issues and lack of physical activity can also produce identical complaints, leading people to suspect thyroid disease even when hormone levels are normal.

Dr. Pearlsy noted that this overlap is a key reason thyroid problems are frequently over diagnosed. Dr. Usha added that in women, peri-menopausal and post-menopausal symptoms further blur the picture, as they often resemble thyroid-related complaints.

Doctors stress that thyroid testing should be driven by clinical suspicion rather than by isolated symptoms or general health packages. "After evaluation, testing is useful when there is genuine suspicion, not curiosity," Dr. Usha said. She pointed out that marginal or borderline abnormalities are frequently detected during routine health check-ups and must be interpreted carefully by a healthcare professional.

Costs of excess

Casual testing based on advice from friends, social media or unverified sources is a growing concern among clinicians. "A slightly abnormal number does not automatically mean disease," Dr. Ravikiran said. Dr. Pearlsy warned that misinterpretation of reports can result in anxiety, repeated investigations and avoidable treatment.

At the same time, doctors caution that genuine cases of thyroid disease should not be ignored.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

Increasing vehicles, works add to congestion: Traffic police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Outer Ring Road carries four times more vehicles than its original carrying capacity during peak traffic hours. FILE PHOTO

Following the latest TomTom report that ranked Bengaluru as the second-most congested city in the world, Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) officials cited the increasing number of vehicles and ongoing infrastructure works as the primary reasons for the growing congestion.

According to the report by the Netherlands-based technology firm TomTom, Bengaluru was the third most congested city in 2025. In 2025, the average speed in the city was recorded as 16.6 km per hour.

A senior BTP official told *The Hindu* that around 3,000 vehicles are being added across the 10 RTOs in Bengaluru daily.

Adaptive signals

"The ongoing infrastructure works, such as the construction of the metro lines, are also adding to the congestion," said the official, adding that the department would soon be introducing 110 adaptive signals which are hoped to ease the situation.

The official also stressed on the need for increased usage of public transport to reduce congestion.

According to the official, one of the biggest pain points has been the heavy traffic on Outer Ring Road (ORR), which carries four times more vehicles than its original carrying capacity during peak hours.

"We have called for a meeting with major companies on the ORR early next month to look at ways to solve the issue and encourage public transport. If the ORR problem is solved, it will help ease Bengaluru's congestion to a large extent," he said.

According to data from the Traffic Department, the city witnesses 90 vehicle breakdowns daily on an average, many of them causing slow movement of traffic.

"Around 10 to 12 of them are BMTC electric buses," the official said.

Bus stands located close to junctions and pedestrians crossing roads in the absence of foot overbridges also contribute to the congestion problem.

"We have identified 103 bus stands located next to junctions and have asked the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to shift them. Seventy-eight spots, where pedestrians cross the road in the absence of skywalks, have also been spotted, and we have requested GBA to construct foot overbridges in those spots," the official said.

Over 20,000 private schools in State haven't secured recognition renewal

DSEL submits proposal to the government to relax four key rules to facilitate the RR renewal .

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

As per the Karnataka Education Act 1983 and the Right to Education (RTE) Rules-2012, it is mandatory for private and aided schools to get recognition renewal done every year. FILE PHOTO

Over 20,000 private schools in the State have violated various rules and have failed to get recognition renewal (RR) from the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) for 2025-26.

The DSEL has submitted a proposal to the government to relax four key rules, including submission of non-agricultural land conversion documents and approved building plans.

As per the Karnataka Education Act 1983 and the Right to Education (RTE) Rules-2012, it is mandatory for private and aided schools to get RR done every year. Earlier, private institutions had to submit about 60 documents to the DSEL for RR. It was a challenging task for private schools and not all schools were getting RR. This became a problem for students taking the SSLC exam. Later, the department used to give conditional RR extensions for these schools.

In the wake of private schools repeatedly appealing to the government in this regard, it had recently reduced the number of documents to be submitted for RR renewal to 30. However, the problem continued.

Survey on schools

Around 25,000 private and aided schools are functioning across the State in a survey conducted by the DSEL on unauthorised schools for the year 2025-26.

During this time, over 20,000 schools were found to have violated various norms and their RR was not renewed. Only around 5,000 schools had received RR this year.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) had restricted the registration of students from unauthorised schools who had not received RR for the SSLC examination. It had issued an order to merge the students of such schools with neighbourhood government or aided schools and register them for the SSLC examination.

However, in the wake of opposition from private schools, the KSEAB withdrew the order.

What are the rules that will be dropped?

It was mandatory for the schools concerned to submit the non-agricultural land conversion documents obtained from the Revenue Department for starting new schools and RR.

"The matter of land conversion is related to the Revenue Department. The Revenue Department will take appropriate action regarding the non-conversion of land of schools. We do not need to worry about this," said Vikas Kishor Suralkar, Commissioner, Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

"For RR, every private school has to pay school stability fee ranging from ₹60,000 to ₹1.7 lakh. However, running a private school costs around ₹20 lakh per month. Due to this, the School Stability Fund has also been relaxed," he added.

He also said it is mandatory for all private schools to provide Provident Fund (PF) and Employee's State Insurance (ESI) facilities to the staff. However, it is not necessary to submit documents regarding PF and ESI facilities during RR as these matters are taken care of by the Labour and the PF Departments. "It is enough to provide information about this in the audit report of the schools," Mr. Suralkar stated.

It is mandatory for all private schools to submit fire safety and building stability certificates for RR. So, the approved building plan is not necessary, he said. "Approved building plan documents cannot be made mandatory for old schools built before 1990 and 2000. Therefore, it has been decided to relax this rule as well, and instead, schools will only need to provide a self-certified sketch verified by an architect," he added.

INBRIEF

BTP book over 2,000 traffic violations in special drive

The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) on Wednesday booked over 2,000 motorists for driving the wrong way during a special enforcement drive conducted across the city.

Data shared by the BTP showed that the highest number of violations were recorded in the South traffic division, where 921 cases were booked. This was followed by the West division with 795 cases, the North division with 554, and the East division with 113 cases.

The police said the special drive will continue for a week, with dedicated teams deployed at identified locations to intercept violators. The special drive comes in the wake of frequent complaints and videos of one-way driving being shared on social media platforms.

In 2025 alone, the BTP booked 3.02 lakh cases of no-entry and wrong-side driving. However, officials noted that the figure represents only visible violations, as many such offences go undetected and unreported.

KIA ground staff arrested for sexually harassing Korean businesswoman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police have arrested a 25-year-old ground staff member of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) for allegedly sexually harassing a Korean businesswoman on the pretext of "manual frisking".

The accused has been identified as Mohammed Affaan Ahmed, a resident of Kammanahalli in east Bengaluru, who was employed as ground staff by a private company extending ground handling and passenger services at KIA. A Bengaluru court has remanded Ahmed in judicial custody.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 10 a.m. on Monday, when the victim was returning to Korea. After completing her security check and immigration procedures, she was proceeding to board her flight when Ahmed stopped her at the departure area of Terminal 2.

"Ahmed checked her boarding pass and told her that there was an issue with her luggage. Claiming that she needed to be frisked once again separately, he took her near the men's washroom and touched her inappropriately," an investigator in the case told *The Hindu*.

The complainant told the police that Ahmed frisked her intrusively and continued to do so despite her objections. He allegedly left after saying "thank you". Distressed by the incident, the victim approached airport authorities, who detained Ahmed and handed him over to the airport police.

The police officer said the accused had no authority to conduct a separate check but proceeded regardless. "We have reviewed the CCTV camera footage, which shows him taking the victim to a secluded area," the officer said.

Ahmed has been booked under the relevant section of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) dealing with sexual harassment, and his statement has been recorded.

From Page One

Rebate scheme swells revenue, but a police warning

Such rebate schemes, they argue, further embolden violators, especially during peak hours when pedestrian movement is high. They also point out that enforcement becomes more difficult when violations increase, particularly as the BTP is grappling with a shortage of manpower.

Data shows that not wearing a helmet was the most violated rule in 2025, accounting for 45.14% of the total cases. The city recorded 225 pedestrian deaths in 2025, underscoring the grim state of road safety in Bengaluru.

"Generally, people follow rules because they fear fines and police action, not necessarily because of road safety awareness. Rebate schemes, in a way, erase that existing fear," another senior officer said.

The officer pointed out that Karnataka already has relatively lower fines under the IMV Act compared with other States, and the rebate scheme further reduces them, diluting the seriousness with which people view road safety.

A traffic inspector revealed that many violators have repeatedly avoided paying fines by claiming they would do so during the rebate period. Two senior officers confirmed this trend, stating that it became rampant by mid-2025.

However, another senior officer from the South division noted that BTP books a large number of contactless cases, making fine collection a herculean task. Dedicated teams have to be formed to recover fines, which in turn reduces manpower available for traffic regulation.

Rajkumar Dugar of Citizens for Citizens views the scheme as an effective way to recover outstanding fines and generate income for the department but said it should not be implemented repeatedly, as that would undermine the core purpose of policing.

Data also shows that repeatedly rolling out the scheme makes violators complacent about paying fines.

IMTEX Forming 2026 inaugurated

BENGALURU: The ninth edition of IMTEX Forming 2026, an exhibition on metal forming technologies, was inaugurated at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre on January 21.

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru – 560080

Advt. No. 03/2026 dt. 21.01.2026

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Sd/-
Administrative Officer

Ramana Maharshi Centre for Learning
Presents
49th National Seminar and Cultural Festival
On the Life and Teachings of Sri Ramana Maharshi
23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th January 2026

Venue: Ramana Maharshi Heritage Campus, Sanjaynagar, Bengaluru

23rd January, Friday 6.30 pm - Founder's Day

"Abounding Auspiciousness - Ramana Kalyani", Talk by Dr. Ambika Kameshwar, Musical Feature by Students of RMCL

24th January, Saturday 10:00 am

Self-enquiry Workshop, Ramananjali Musical offering, Talk by Sri G. Kameshwar, "Ramana Maha Shakti", a Mega Dance Drama by Artistes of RMCL and RASA Chennai

25th January, Sunday 10:00 am

Self-enquiry Workshop,
"Dashavatara Ramana", a Dance Drama by Young Artistes and Students of RMCL

Venue: Ramana Maharshi Shrine and Meditation Hall, Mekhri Circle

26th Jan, Monday 11:00am - Kannada Session:

Talks by Swami Adityananda Chinmaya Mission-Mandya, Sri K G Subraya Sharma and other eminent speakers

ALL ARE WELCOME

SPACE MARKETING INITIATIVE

FROM HPV INFECTION TO CANCER: WHAT EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW?

Image for representation purpose only

Cervical cancer remains one of the most common cancers affecting women in India. It is the second most common cancer among Indian women aged 15-44 years and accounts for nearly 23% of the global cervical cancer burden (As of 2020 by Bruni L, et al.). Despite being largely preventable, the disease continues to impact thousands of women each year due to limited awareness and delayed preventive action.

For most people HPV clears on its own. But for those who don't clear the virus, it can cause certain cancers and diseases.

Persistent infection with the human papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary cause of cervical cancer. Understanding how HPV infection progresses, and how it can be prevented, empowers women and families to take timely, informed action to protect against its risk.

HPV often shows no symptoms, yet its impact can be serious

HPV is one of the most common viral infections of the reproductive tract. Most women will be exposed to HPV at some point in their lives, often without experiencing any symptoms. In many cases, the immune system clears the virus naturally. However, certain high-risk HPV types can persist silently in the body for years. What makes HPV particularly concerning is that the progression from infection to cancer is slow. In most cases, this process takes 10 to 20 years or longer, with no visible warning signs along the way.

Because HPV infection can happen at any time and remain undetected for years, prevention is critical well before exposure to the virus.

The first line of defence

Certain HPV-related cancers & diseases can be prevented with the help of HPV vaccination. Nearly 80% of unvaccinated adults are likely to acquire HPV at some point in their lifetime. Evidence shows that HPV vaccination may help provide better protection when given at a younger age between 9-14 years, as it produces a stronger immune response and is more effective when administered before exposure to the virus. Global and national health authorities such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), and the Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommend HPV vaccination from 9 years of age for both girls and boys.

HPV prevention however, is not restricted to adolescence. FOGSI, the leading obstetric and gynaecological body in India, recommends that women who were not vaccinated earlier can still benefit from vaccination up to 45 years of age. In adult women, vaccination can continue to offer protection against HPV types that they have not yet been exposed to, making catch-up vaccination an important preventive opportunity. The All India Coordinating Committee of Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (AICC RCOG) also recommends mandatory HPV vaccination across life stages including adolescents, young adults, and married women in India.

HPV vaccines have been extensively studied worldwide and are generally considered to be well tolerated. Importantly, there is no evidence that HPV vaccination affects fertility, or future pregnancy outcomes. Studies have also shown that HPV vaccination does not interfere with hormones, menstrual cycles, or the ability to conceive.

Like other vaccines and medicines, HPV vaccines often have mild side effects such as pain, redness and/ or swelling at the injection site, headache or a mild fever.

While vaccination helps prevent infection, screening plays a complementary role later in life. Certain high risk HPV types can cause gradual and abnormal changes in the cervical cells which can be detected through regular screening tests such as Pap smears recommended for women. Please consult your gynecologist for more information.

Take charge of your health, speak to your doctor!

Timely HPV vaccination is one of the ways of prevention, as infection can occur years before screening begins. Combined with age-appropriate screening and guidance from healthcare professionals, risk of certain HPV-related cancers & diseases can be prevented.

Issued in public interest by MSD Pharmaceuticals for awareness purposes.

Disclaimer: This feature is not intended to be a substitute for medical advice. Consult your medical practitioner before acting upon the information.

HPV: Human Papilloma Virus; WHO: World Health Organization; FOGSI: Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India; AICC RCOG: All India Coordinating Committee of Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists.

HPV vaccine is not intended to be used for treatment and may not result in protection in all vaccine recipients. For reporting an Adverse Event, visit us at www.msd.com

AE Reporting: To report Adverse Events (AEs) related to our products, please contact: dpoc_india@msd.com

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Percentage plunge in IndiGo's quarter net profit

78 in per cent. India's largest airline, IndiGo, on Thursday reported a 78% decline in the December quarter net profit at ₹549.1 crore as flight disruptions and implementation of the new Labour Code took a toll on its earnings. It reported a net profit of ₹549.1 crore in October-December quarter, compared with ₹2,448.8 crore earnings in the year-ago period. REUTERS

Average congestion level in Bengaluru in 2025

74.4 in per cent. Bengaluru, has been ranked the second most congested city globally in 2025, with an average congestion level of 74.4%, according to TomTom's 2025 Traffic Index. It placed Mexico City at the top, followed by Bengaluru and Dublin. In Bengaluru, the average congestion level rose 1.7% points compared to the previous year. PTI

Percentage increase in India's coffee exports in 2025

22.5 in per cent. India's coffee exports rose in value terms by 22.5% to $2,058.06 million in the 2025 calendar year, but declined in volume by 4.47% to 3.84 lakh tonnes, Coffee Board data showed. In volume terms, the shipments declined from 4.02 lakh tonnes in 2024. India ranks seventh globally in coffee production and fifth in coffee exports. PTI

Missing persons reunited with family by Haryana police

17,000 Of the 17,000 missing persons, Haryana Police reunited 13,529 adults with their families over the last year. These included 4,130 men and 9,399 women who had been separated from their homes. Over the past year, Haryana Police traced and connected more than 17,000 missing persons with their families. PTI

People likely to experience severe hunger in Nigeria

35 million. The UN World Food Programme said on Tuesday that more than a million people in northeastern Nigeria could lose access to emergency food and nutrition aid within weeks unless funding is secured, as violence and hunger surge in the region. The food agency said in a statement it will sharply scale back assistance. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The limits of household stability

India's growth story rests on aggregate comfort, but a closer look shows households saving less, borrowing more, and absorbing risks once shared more broadly; beneath stable growth and steady consumption, a growing fragility builds in household finances

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan

With only a couple of weeks left before the Finance Minister tables the next Union Budget, the aggregate markers of macroeconomic comfort in India's growth story may appear to be in place, where average economic growth remains strong in relative comparison to global standards, even amid the heightened uncertainty afflicting most other nations.

Yet this story of projected confidence rests on a partial reading of the aggregate data, which veils a deeper, more unsettling reality in India's economic fundamentals and their governing dynamics. A closer look at recent household finances data suggests that India's growth is increasingly being underwritten by households that are, on average, saving much less and borrowing more, while quietly absorbing economic risks that were once shared more broadly. This can, of course, increase household debt, especially among vulnerable and low-income groups, who haven't really gained in employment opportunities or higher incomes over the last few years.

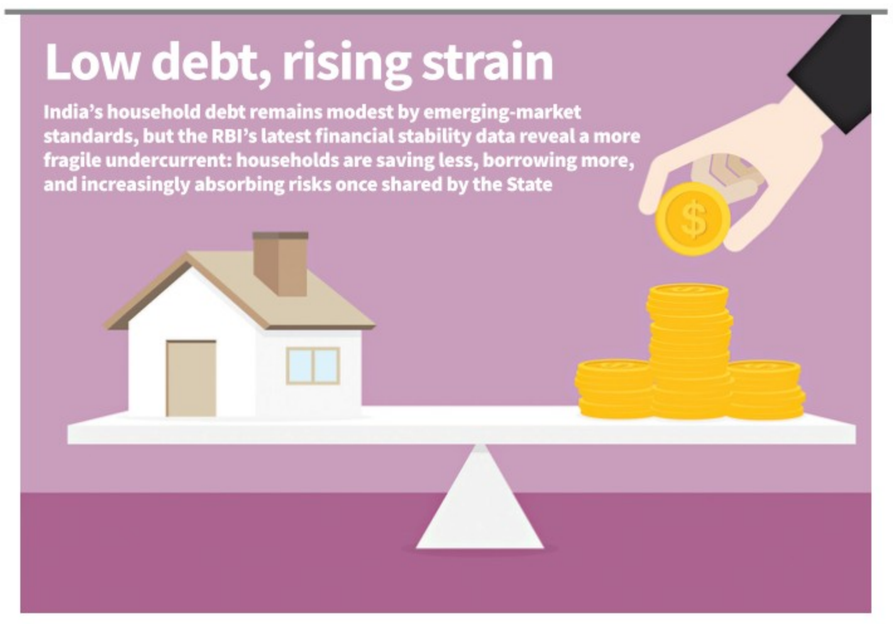


Chart 1.45 A*: Household debt has risen steadily, reflecting greater reliance on borrowing

India's household debt
(Per cent of GDP)

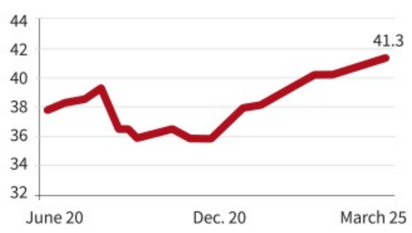
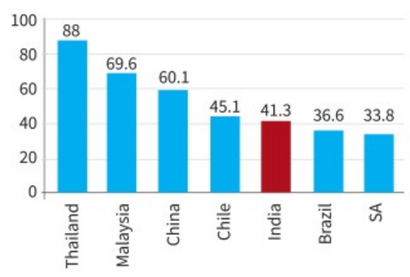


Chart B: India's debt remains low versus peers, but this comparison masks domestic stress

Household debt of EMEs (March 2025)
(Per cent of GDP)



*The RBI's Financial Stability Report's Chart 1.45 is frequently used to support the claim that India's household sector is financially stable.

■ Household debt was 41.3% of GDP as of March 2025, far lower than levels observed in many emerging market peers

Chart 1.50 A
Savings have turned volatile as liabilities grow faster than assets

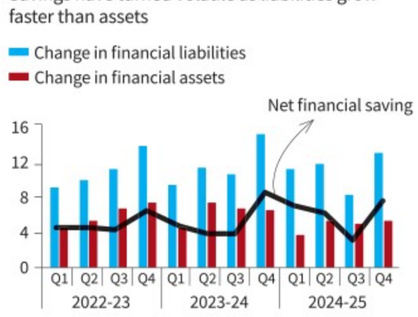
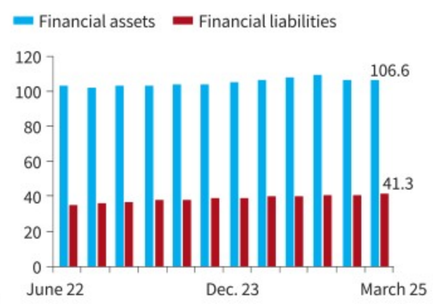


Chart C: Assets exceed liabilities, but household financial buffers are thinning



A misleading comfort

The Reserve Bank of India's Financial Stability Report (December 2025), read alongside its Annual Report 2024-25 and recent Budget documents, points to a shift that deserves attention precisely because it does not yet resemble a crisis, but exhibits enough to merit a red flag.

Chart 1.45 of the Financial Stability Report is frequently used to support the claim that India's household sector remains financially stable. Household debt stood at 41.3% of GDP as of March 2025, far lower than levels observed in many emerging market peers, including China, Malaysia, and Thailand. Additionally, the increase has been relatively gradual rather than abrupt, rising from roughly 36% of GDP in mid-2021 to slightly over 41% by early 2025. It proves that there is no household debt crisis in the traditional sense in India. Excessive leverage or an imminent threat to financial stability is not evident.

However, there are limits to this assurance. Debt-to-GDP ratios demonstrate the extent of household borrowing in relation to the economy, but they do not explain why households are taking on debt or whether they will be able to pay it off over time.

In the present situation, that distinction is important. According to the RBI's Annual Report 2024-25, real income growth has been uneven, especially outside formal employment and high-productivity sectors. In the meantime, overall consumption has held up well. Households must make other adjustments when consumption holds up despite weak or uneven income growth. Borrowing has become a more common way to make that adjustment.

Credit as a cushion

In this way, a change in the function of credit itself is reflected in the increase in household debt. Borrowing is being used more to close income and expense gaps than to finance the creation of assets. Even moderate debt levels can become a source of vulnerability when they substitute for income growth and savings rather than complement them. That question depends not on how much households owe today, but on how debt, income, and savings are evolving together, an issue that becomes central to assessing the economy ahead of the Budget.

Both sides of the balance sheet are simultaneously captured in Chart 1.50. Financial liabilities accounted for 41.3% of GDP in March 2025, while gross household financial assets stood at 106.6% of GDP. There is no indication that liabilities have surpassed assets, and households continue to be net holders of financial wealth. It is simple to conclude that household finances are sound based only on this.

Examining the flow data is the only way to see the stress. In recent quarters, net financial savings have drastically fluctuated and decreased. Net financial savings recovered to 7.6% of GDP in the last quarter of 2024-25, but this came after a compression to about 3-4% of GDP in the preceding quarter. The quicker accumulation of financial liabilities compared to financial assets is the direct cause of this volatility, according to the RBI.

There are obvious ramifications to this pattern. It indicates a more concerning change in domestic behaviour. Although households continue to save, a growing portion of that savings is being offset by new borrowing.

As a result, headline financial wealth can continue growing while the buffer that shields households from job shocks, income losses, and rising interest rates gradually deteriorates. A growing fragility lies beneath what appears stable in aggregate.

Why households are borrowing more

A more comprehensive fiscal and policy configuration that systematically transfers risk from the State to households is the cause of the increase in household borrowing. According to the RBI's State Finances: A Study of Budgets 2024-25, State governments have prioritised capital expenditure while limiting revenue expenditure.

Committed expenditures – interest payments, pensions, and salaries – now account for between 30 and 32% of State revenue receipts, leaving little space for income support or countercyclical transfers. States have actually become less responsive to household income stress while also becoming fiscally leaner.

At the Union level, the Budget at a Glance 2025-26 shows a continued emphasis on public investment, with capital expenditure budgeted at ₹11.2 lakh crore and effective capital expenditure at ₹15.5 lakh crore. This strategy is growth-enhancing, but it is not household-neutral. Infrastructure investment raises medium-term potential, yet does little to smooth short-term income volatility.

Union Budget 2026 will be framed understandably as a continuation of macroeconomic stability achieved through fiscal discipline and investment-led growth. However, stability that depends on households taking out loans to maintain demand is not self-sustaining and merits a closer look at options which can enable disposable income for households

The result is a quiet reallocation of risk. As governments consolidate and invest, households are asked implicitly to insure themselves.

A macro risk hiding in plain sight

This shift matters because it changes the very character of India's growth. Private consumption accounts for close to 60% of GDP, making household spending the economy's primary stabiliser. The danger lies in the interaction of three trends documented across the RBI's recent reports.

First, the Annual Report 2024-25 notes that real income growth has been uneven, especially outside formal employment and high-productivity sectors. Second, while borrower risk profiles have improved, unsecured retail credit has expanded rapidly, indicating that consumption is being sustained on thinner financial cushions. Third, as shown in Chart 1.50, net financial savings have become volatile and, at times, sharply compressed, as liability accumulation increasingly offsets asset formation.

A slowdown in income growth, a tightening of financial conditions, or a rise in unemployment would reduce discretionary spending and, more critically, compel households to retrench abruptly, because debt-financed consumption offers little room for adjustment.

Union Budget 2026 will be framed understandably as a continuation of macroeconomic stability achieved through fiscal discipline and investment-led growth. However, stability that depends on households taking out loans to maintain demand is not self-sustaining and merits a closer look at options which can enable disposable income for households.

It is not guaranteed even then that any marginal increase in income can help increase savings but may at least catalyse that over time in the longer term, while helping the citizenry take care of debt interest or borrowing repayments in the short to medium term. Restoring balance in the household budgeting calculus is the key fiscal policy-task prior to Budget 2026. Creating demand, more labour-intensive employment, and aligning fiscal outcomes towards these, while increasing average incomes, will eventually be affected by an economy where households gradually lose their ability to absorb shocks.

Deepanshu Mohan is professor and dean, O.P. Jindal Global University and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies (CNES). He is a visiting professor at LSE and a visiting fellow at University of Oxford. Geetaali Malhotra contributed to this column

THE GIST

- India's growth rests on aggregate comfort, but a closer look shows households saving less, borrowing more, and quietly absorbing economic risks once shared more broadly.
- Household debt is not yet a crisis, but uneven income growth, rising liabilities, and volatile net financial savings point to a growing fragility beneath stable consumption.
- As fiscal policy prioritises investment and discipline, risk is being reallocated to households, making the balance between growth, demand, and household stability central before Budget 2026.

ADVERTISEMENT

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR A HEALTHIER UTTAR PRADESH

A New Era of Inclusive Development • Compassion • Innovation • Trust

Artificial Intelligence is emerging as a powerful instrument to transform governance from a reactive approach to a proactive one.

- **Yogi Adityanath**, Chief Minister, U.P.

A VISION TURNED INTO ACTION: Uttar Pradesh is entering a transformative era where Artificial Intelligence (AI) is redefining governance, healthcare and public service delivery. Guided by the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state is leveraging technology to move from a reactive system to a proactive, people-centric model of development. With the launch of the UP AI Mission and the inauguration of the AI in Transforming Healthcare Conference in Lucknow, the government has laid the foundation for making Uttar Pradesh a national leader in AI-driven healthcare services. From real-time disease tracking to digital health access in remote villages, AI is becoming a powerful instrument for transparency, precision, and inclusion.

AI Ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh

- UP AI MISSION
- HEALTHCARE INNOVATION
- REAL-TIME DATA
- FRONTLINE WORKERS
- LAST-MILE DELIVERY

₹2,000 Crore AI Mission: A New Healthcare Revolution for Uttar Pradesh

The Chief Minister announced that projects worth approximately ₹2,000 crore will be implemented in phases over the next three years under the UP AI Mission, placing Uttar Pradesh at the forefront of AI-enabled healthcare delivery in India.

These initiatives aim to enhance:

- Real-time disease surveillance
- Early epidemic detection
- Vector-borne disease tracking
- Accurate health data analysis for policymaking
- Digital access to healthcare services in remote regions

- **Medical Device Park**
- **Pharma Park**
- **MedTech Center** (Lucknow)
- **AI Center** (Gauam Buddha Nagar)
- **IIT Kanpur** CoE
- **Lucknow AI City**

"By enabling real-time data collection and feedback on epidemics and vector-borne diseases, AI can support informed decision-making, stronger policies, and better outcomes."

- **Yogi Adityanath**, Chief Minister, U.P.

Building the AI Workforce of Tomorrow

- 65 Data & AI Labs Planned Across Uttar Pradesh
- Operational: Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Pilibhit
- Approved: 49 New Locations
- Upcoming: 13 Additional Centers

65 DATA & AI LABS

- **49** Approved
- **3** Operational
- **13** Upcoming

These labs provide hands-on AI training, real-time datasets and industry-ready skill development for students and young innovators.

"AI must remain human-driven, not the other way around. Maintaining this balance will be critical for the future."

- **Yogi Adityanath**, Chief Minister, U.P.

From Policy to People Delivering Impact at the Last Mile

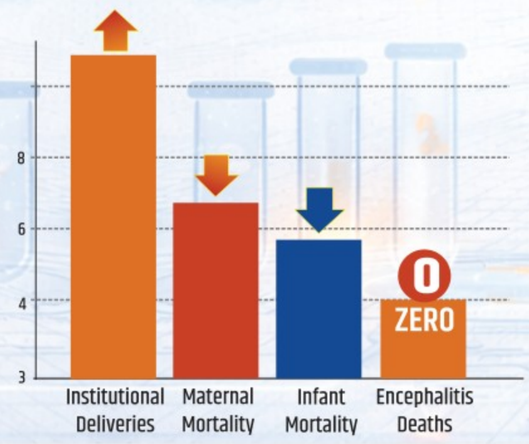
The Chief Minister emphasized that AI enables real-time data collection, early disease detection, and accurate health feedback systems, empowering the government to design stronger policies and achieve better health outcomes.

AI is being applied to:

- Epidemic Monitoring & Vector-Borne Disease Tracking
- Maternal & Infant Health Support
- Tuberculosis Identification & Treatment Monitoring
- Telemedicine & Virtual ICUs
- Healthcare Access in Remote Areas

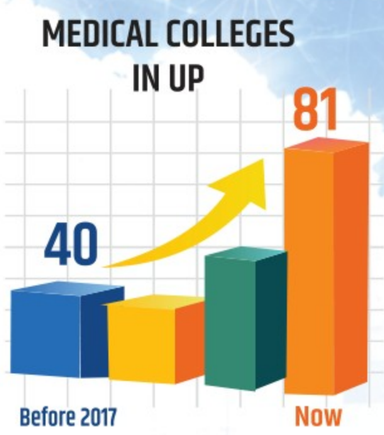
Public Health Transformation Through Technology

A disease once claiming 1,200–1,500 children annually has now been eliminated through systematic healthcare and digital monitoring.



Healthcare Infrastructure: Growth Powered by Digital Transformation

The Chief Minister highlighted that districts once lacking ICUs, oxygen plants, dialysis units, blood banks, and digital diagnostics are now equipped with modern healthcare facilities.Virtual ICUs and telemedicine services, introduced during the pandemic, continue to serve remote and rural populations, ensuring expert medical support without geographic barriers.



- **1.06 Crore** DBT Beneficiaries
- **80,000** e-POS Shops
- **30 Lakh** Fake Ration Cards Removed

AI and digital healthcare systems are strengthening medical education and expanding access to trained healthcare professionals across the state.

AI on the Ground

Disease Detection · Telemedicine & Vertual ICUs · Monitoring · Maternal & Infant Health · Remote Health Access

How AI is Improving Lives in Uttar Pradesh

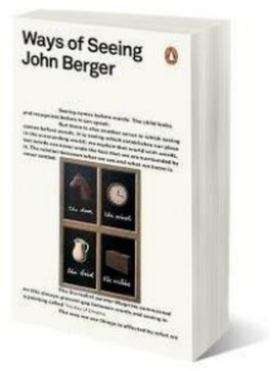
Citizen → AI Systems → Health Workers → Hospitals → Better Outcomes

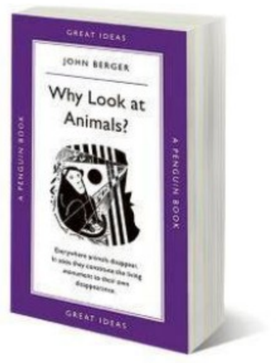
From Vision to Reality — Uttar Pradesh Leads India's AI-Powered Healthcare Revolution

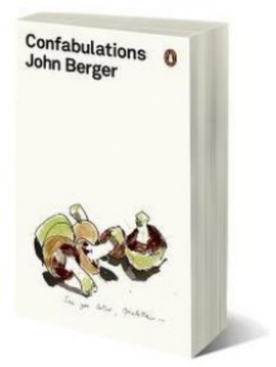
Policing · Agriculture · Education · Governance

A BG-BGE

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Art critic and writer John Berger. AFP

John Berger never stopped experimenting with form and voice

In the centenary year of the great English art critic and writer, a look at a career spent insisting that changing our perspectives could change the world; Berger's influential books, including the acclaimed *Ways of Seeing*, are about history, people, and revealing the illusion of objectivity

Vasudevan Mukunth

There's a way to see yourself in the world, and write about it, without putting yourself at its centre. To write about history and place and people and in the course of that make yourself visible. It's an unselfish but also beautiful way. The English art critic and writer John Berger's famous book, *Ways of Seeing* – which he "made" with Sven Blomberg, Chris Fox, Michael Dibb, and Richard Hollis – taught me this. (I'm obviously not such a good writer.)

Ways of Seeing dissects consumer culture like a surgeon explaining each incision as she makes it. Here's the oil painting that taught us to desire objects. Here's the advertisement that inherited this language. There's a woman in this frame because she is to be looked at (thus exposing the male gaze). The product in the catalogue exists to complete you.

However, Berger doesn't pretend to stand outside the book's own frame, using "we" to implicate himself in the looking. When he writes "the way we see things is affected by what we know or what we believe", the gaze is turned inwards, to reveal the critic in his own viewfinder. *Ways of Seeing* reveals the visual machinery of persuasion by making Berger's own machinery visible. Each chapter strips away more layers of mystification, glamour, and, crucially, the myths of genius to reveal beneath it all the act of looking. It's Berger looking at paintings, looking at women looking at themselves being looked at.

Radical gesture

Consumer culture thrives on invisibility – the advertisement wants you to forget it was made, forget someone chose this angle, this light, this juxtaposition – and Berger reverses it. It's a radical gesture for admitting that critique has a body and a location, much as the thing being critiqued.

The influence of *Ways of Seeing* extended far beyond art history to reshape how critics in many disciplines understood their own practice. The book allowed generations of writers to abandon the pretence of omniscient detachment. His prose is itself accessible and as an author he's willing to question established hierarchies of taste, features that together democratised criticism by showing that rigorous analysis doesn't demand jargon or 'objectivity'.

This is why the book's discourse can be applied to almost any endeavour. (That the title also recalls Raymond Williams's statement about the mass media helps: "There are in fact no masses; there are only ways of seeing people as masses.") For instance, the book was my gateway to traditional notions of scientific objectivity in science writing. The feminist scholar Sandra Harding among others has argued that scientists should openly acknowledge how their values and perspectives shape research, rather than claim their stance is completely neutral. Donna Haraway's concept of 'situated knowledges' rejects what she called the "god trick" of seeing everything from nowhere, proposing instead that knowledge comes from specific, embodied positions.

Hidden frames

When we call something objective, we're really saying we believe we've managed rather than eliminated certain epistemic risks arising due to human imperfections. Observation changes what's observed and scientists pretending otherwise perform the same mystification Berger saw in art criticism: using authority to conceal. True objectivity, the kind that emerges regardless of who does the observing, exists only in vanishingly rare circumstances – when an observer's position, tools, assumptions, funding sources, career anxieties, and cultural moment genuinely don't matter.

How often does that happen in science? In medicine? In research on human behaviour, climate, ecosystems, and public health? The observer is always there yet the frames remain hidden, and to see them has been to become impertinent.

Berger applied this particular impertinence to the natural world in his 1980 essay 'Why Look at Animals?'. He argued that the way we view animals today, especially in zoos, is a monument to a relationship that capitalism has destroyed. Just as the art critic must acknowledge the gallery, the naturalist must acknowledge the cage. Berger observed that in the zoo the animal is rendered marginal: it's there to be seen yet it can't return the look. We drift from cage to cage like consumers in a department store, observing creatures that have been, in his words, "immunised to encounter". It illustrates how a claim to educational or scientific visibility can actually serve to make the subject invisible, reducing a living being to a token of its species.

Spiritual orphan

Berger also used 'impertinence' later in his life as the title and substance of an essay in his last book, *Confabulations* (2016). He wrote about being a spiritual orphan as he learnt that hierarchies were theatre and authority was costume. In fact, "I propose a conspiracy of orphans," he wrote. "We exchange winks. We reject hierarchies. All hierarchies. We take the shit of the world for granted and we exchange stories about how we nevertheless get by. We are impertinent." It's the idea that honesty is the only kind of objectivity that matters.

Confabulations was published in the final year of Berger's life and is proof that he never stopped experimenting with form and voice. The book meditates on the artist's responsibility to witness, with luminous and precise prose that moves effortlessly between the intimate and the universal. Reading it feels like spending time with a generous intelligence. And it's a fitting culmination to a career spent insisting that changing how we see could change the world.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Senegal won this year's African Cup of Nations, beating hosts Morocco last Sunday. Here is a quiz on Africa's prestigious tournament

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
How many countries participated in the first version of the tournament in 1957, and what is the current number of slots?

QUESTION 2
Which country was initially slated to host this year's tournament, but was stripped of its hosting rights due to concerns over readiness?

QUESTION 3
Name the most successful nation in the tournament, and the number of cups it has won.

QUESTION 4
What animal is the mascot of this year's tournament, and what is it called?

QUESTION 5
Name the three countries that have qualified for the coming World Cup but did not play in the AFCON?

Visual Question: Name this Moroccan player who won the golden boot at the tournament, but missed a penalty in the final? AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Who was Norma McCorvey? **Ans: Norma McCorvey, also known by the pseudonym Jane Roe, was the plaintiff in the landmark 1973 American legal case Roe v. Wade.**
2. Which U.S. state was the first one who ruled in Jane Roe's favour? **Ans: Texas**
3. In 1821, this U.S. state passed the first state statute legislating abortion in the United States. **Ans: Connecticut**
4. This was a landmark decision of the United States Supreme Court in which the Court upheld the right to have an abortion as established by the "essential holding" of Roe v. Wade (1973). **Ans: Planned Parenthood vs Casey**
5. In 2022, which decision ended the protection of abortion rights by the U.S. Constitution and allowed individual states to regulate any aspect of abortion not preempted by federal law? **Ans: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization**
Visual: Identify this American lawyer who participated in two notable U.S. court cases of the 20th century. **Ans: Henry Wade**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Sukdev Shet | Sunil Madhavan | Tito Shiladitya | Sadhan Panda

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"You don't look happy. What's wrong?"
"Sujatha says that I am still tied to my mother's apron strings."
"What does she mean by that?"
"It means that he is controlled or influenced by her."
"In other words, this person does whatever his mother tells him to do?"
"Exactly! The mother dominates him completely. Here's an example."
"Seetha refused to marry Suresh because she felt he was still tied to his mother's apron strings."
"My cousin Gayathri claims that most Indian men are tied to their mother's apron strings."
"I know a man who is tied to his wife's apron strings."
"Meaning the man is controlled by his wife?"
"Right again!"
"My uncle spent the first twenty five years of his life tied to his mother's apron strings."
"He probably spent the next fifty-five years tied to his wife's apron strings."
"How did you know?"
"Just a guess!"
"Can I say, most Congressmen are tied to Sonia's apron strings?"
"Why don't you ask Sujatha?"
"I don't want to talk about her. By the way, is it wrong to say off the lights?"
"We in India tend to say, on the lights and off the lights, but a native speaker of English would say turn on/turn off the lights."
"I see, but...."
"....it is also possible to say switch on/switch off the lights."
"My mother switches off the lights at 10:30."
"My nephews always forget to turn off the fan."
"It's been ages since I turned the radio on."
"Will you be meeting Sujatha tomorrow?"
"Not if I can help it! But I will be seeing her father, though."
"He's coming to our school tomorrow. He's going to talk about how to become a pilot."
"He's been a pilot for a long time, hasn't he?"
"Yes, he has. He has flown different kinds of planes..."
"....aircraft."
"What?"
"He has flown different types of aircraft. You see, the plural of aircraft is aircraft."
"I see."
"Here's an example. There were ten aircraft waiting to take off."
"In the accident, both aircraft were damaged."
"Because of the heavy fog, the tower wasn't allowing any aircraft to land."
"Since the plural of aircraft is aircraft, I guess that's the reason why a ship which carries aircraft is called an aircraft carrier rather than aircrafts carrier."
"That's right!"
"I wonder if Sujatha's father has ever been on an aircraft carrier."
"I only hope he doesn't bore us like the speaker we had last week. The man spoke about nuclear physics and it was full of jargons. It was...."
"....it was full of jargon, not jargons."
"Is jargon an uncountable noun?"
"Yes, that's right! People who like to impress others use a lot of jargon."

Published in The Hindu on May 25, 1999

Word of the day

Anodyne:
unlikely to offend anyone or cause them to disagree

Synonyms: bland, neutral, harmless

Usage: *The minister issued an anodyne statement after the controversy.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/anodynepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ænədaɪn/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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A BG-BGE

AI-powered assistive eyewear for visually impaired launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An AI-enabled assistive eyewear designed to support mobility and daily living for people with complete visual impairment was launched by a start-up at a city eye hospital on Thursday.

Developed by SHG Technologies with clinical validation from Narayana Nethralaya, the Smart Vision Glasses Ultra is a sleek, fashionwear-style assistive device that is modern and easy to use.

Powered by Artificial Intelligence, it supports everyday needs such as reading text in multiple languages, currency recognition, identifying objects or obstacles, recognising faces, and navigating surroundings.

The glasses support everyday needs such as reading text in multiple languages, among others. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It brings powerful assistance into a form that looks and feels like regular eyewear.

Demonstrating the AI-enabled assistive eyewear at a press conference, Anand Vinekar, Head of Paediatric Retina and Program Director, KIDROP (Karnataka Internet Assisted Diagnosis for Retinopathy of Prematurity) at Narayana Nethralaya, said that while medical or surgical interventions can benefit many, an estimated 5 to 7 million individuals in India live with irreversible visual impairment. "For them, vision loss should not mean the end of independence. The Buds to Blossoms clinic in our hospital has spent the past decade building a multidisciplinary model of care for children and adults with complex vision and neurological needs," he said.

Dr. Vinekar said the partnership with SHG Technologies, led to the development of Smart Vision Glasses Ultra.

During the event, Ramamurthy, a user of the device, demonstrated how he navigated the hall, read news articles, identified currency denominations, and recognised both strangers and familiar faces using the AI-enabled features of Smart Vision Glasses.

Three arrested over PG facility rivalry clash

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have arrested three people, including a rowdy sheeter who runs a paying guest (PG) facility near an educational institution in Devanahalli, in connection with a street fight.

One of the accused has been identified as Naveen, 30, a rowdy sheeter. The other two persons who have been arrested are his accomplices. The police are yet to trace 18 other accused named in the FIR.

The case pertains to a clash between two groups: one comprising locals and the other from Kerala.

According to investigators, Naveen, a local resident, has been running a PG facility near the educational institution for the past few years. A rival PG facility in the same area is operated by a person from Kerala. Friction led to a rivalry between Naveen and the other PG facility owner, eventually culminating in a fight on January 16, in which several people were injured.

Following the incident, the police arrested three persons.

CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, Ashish Verma, R/at Tivoli Apartment, D801, Whitefield, Hosakote Road, Seegehalli, Bengaluru-560067 do hereby solemnly state that as per my Aadhaar Card (No.4371 6711 6790), Pan Card (No.AGDPV3574D) and CBSE Marks Statement (No.1126185) **ASHISH VERMA** is my correct name. I further state that in my University of Pune certificate (P.R. No.1320040679) my name is mentioned as **VERMA ASHISH.** In my Secondary School Certificate Examination conducted by Board of Secondary Education, Madhya Pradesh (Roll No.27107294) my name is mentioned as ASHISH KUMAR. I further state that above mentioned names belongs and refers to same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dated 21.01.2026 sworn to Notary Rajanna S.M.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum-2 to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/155/2025 Dated 04.11.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Providing Project Management Services for Development of Vande Bharat sleeper trains maintenance depot at Thanisandra Railway station and Major upgradation of Tumakuru Railway station through Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) Contracts. **(Tender Ref. No. PMS-TK-STN-DEVVANDEBHRAT)**	Rs. 10,95,43,438/-

Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
20.01.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)	28.01.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/838/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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CENTRAL RAILWAY

SOLAPUR DIVISION

e-Procurement

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on Behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **01. Tender No:- 96265011, 02. Description:-** Goods, Manufacture and Supply of Elastic Rail Clips MK-V confirming to RDSO Drg.no.T5919 Alt-2(Latest alteration) and confirming to IRS Specification for ERC S. No. T-31-2021- Fifth Revision (with amendment-2 & latest alteration) (**Note:** Latest alteration wherever used will mean the alterations up to the actual date of closing tender.) **03 Quantity:-** 120846 Nos., **04 Earnest Money (INR):-** Rs.241480.00. Date & Time of Closing of Tender on **www.ireps.gov.in** 04-02-2026 after 11:30. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. Divisional Material Manager Solapur

05

Traveling with dangerous and explosive goods is a punishable offense

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-1,2,3/4702/TND/2025-26/3985 **Date: 21.01.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 10 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.514.55 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 10 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.140.56 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) to Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

4702 TSP Works :- Total 1 Package Work, Amount put to Tender **Rs.14.40 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **22.01.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in Kpp portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **31.01.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or Kppp helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **30.01.2026**.Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/631/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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E-AUCTION NOTICE

SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION) UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	**1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) :** **1. M/s Srikanteshwara poultry Breeding farm** Sy no 50/1 &50/5 at Virupasandra Village D Palya Hobli Gowribidanur, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka, 561210 **2.Nagaraju N. N.** C/o srikanteshwara poultry farm Udamalodu village Gauribidanur Chikkaballapur karnataka 561210. **3.Kiran kumar B S/o babanna** **4.Pallavi W/o kiran kumar B** **Both are at :** 103 b sai krishna residency 3rd Cross, ankappa layout gowdanapalya Uttarahalli subramanyapure Bangalore, karnataka 560061. **2) Canara Bank - Agriculture Finance Branch** **Mob. No. 9483532373**	**1) Rs. 2,13,14,219.18** plus further interest & charges **2) Mentioned each property below.**	1) 07.02.2026 upto 5.00 pm 2) 07.02.2026 upto 6.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 5,00,000/-	**1. 09.02.2026 2. 11.00 am to 12.00 pm 3. 07.02.2026 10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

Description of the immovable/ movable assets: 1. All that piece and parcel of land measuring 5 acres 21 Guntas (5.525 acres) in old Sy No. 50/1 New Sy No. 50/5 of Virupasandra village, D.Palya Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkabalapura District along with poultry sheds, lobour rooms, cold room, feed storage and godown standing in the name of Sri Nagaraju NN bounded on **North by:** Property of Gundappa, **South by:** Property of V Krishna Rao, **East by:** Property of Avulappa and **West by:** Property of Sathyappa.

A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.3,60,00,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 36,00,000.00

2. All the piece and parcel of the land measuring 11 guntas in Sy No. 17/1 of Udamalodu village is converted for non agricultural residential purposes and the land measuring 32 guntas in Sy No. 17/1 of Udamalodu village is converted for non agricultural industrial purposes totally measuring 1 acre 5 guntas including 2 guntas of karb in Sy No. 17/1 of Udamalodu village, Kasaba hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura District standing in the name of Sri Nagaraju NN bounded on **North by:** Land in Sy No. 17/6, **South by:** Road, **East by:** Land in Sy No. 18 and **West by:** Land belongs to Mosaiah. **A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.1,05,30,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 10,53,000.00**

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 79074 16232

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 22.01.2026

Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my client **Vijaya Gandhi Mandadi s/o Koteswara Rao** and **Guntupalli Triveni w/o. Vijaya Gandhi Mandadi** intends to purchase property described in the schedule herein from **E Gajendra and Smt T Manasa** (hereinafter Owner/seller). The Owner/seller represents and warrant that they are absolute owners of the schedule property and that they have not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the owner/seller further represents and warrants that they have not encumbered, the schedule property in any manner and apart from them no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site no.16,** Katha No.976/73/16, of Sy no.73, in "**The Golden Wattle**" Property No.109, BBMP EPID No.2451888051, measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 30ft totally 1200sqft, converted for residential use situated at **Kumbena Agrahara Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Tq, Bengaluru District,** under BBMP/GBA limits bounded on :

East by : Road, West by : Site No.36, North by : Site No.17, South by : Site No.15

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 23-01-2026

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 10th January 2026

S.O. 159(E) – In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20 A of the Railway Act 1989 (24 of 1989) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government (Ministry of Railways, South Western Railway, Construction Organisation, Bengaluru Cantonment) after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which has been given in the schedule annexed hereto, is required for the execution of the Special railway project, for Traffic Facilities and capacity Augmentation works (umbrella works) 2023-24 Freight Terminal development at Sasalu station yard in between Mayakonda and Chikkajajur stations at Ch: 287/774 – 289/717 in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer, Chitradurga Sub-Division, Chitradurga, land acquisition for Traffic Facilities and capacity Augmentation works (umbrella works) 2023-24 Freight Terminal development at Sasalu station yard in between Mayakonda and Chikkajajur stations in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority and Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer, Chitradurga Sub-Division, Chitradurga.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling with in the proposed Office Of the Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer, Chitradurga Sub-Division, Chitradurga Project of Traffic Facilities and capacity Augmentation works (umbrella works) 2023-24 Freight Terminal development at Sasalu station yard in between Mayakonda and Chikkajajur stations.

District: Chitradurga **Taluk: Holalkere**
Hobli: Bee Durga **Village: Muttugaduru**

Sl. No.	Owner Name and Enjoyment Name	Sy. No.	Total Extent	Land Owner Extent	Karab	Type of land	Acquisition of land A	G	An	Akara
1	Basamma M @ Nilamabike MK W/o. J Niranjanamurthy Shivaprasad J N S/o. late J Niranjanamurthy (Joint)	21/1	2-00	1-01	-	DRY	0	10	0	3.41
2	M S Sadashivappa S/o. Siddalingappa	21/2	1-02	0-07	-	DRY	0	7	0	1.78
3	G M Ramesh Babu S/o. G H Ashwath Reddy	21/3	1-04	0-33	-	DRY	0	26	0	1.82
4	Shanthamma W/o. M R Thippeswamy	26/3	1-00	0-24	-	DRY	0	2	0	1.63
5	M Prakash S/o. Late T Mahadevappa	26/4	1-00	0-24	-	DRY	0	2	0	1.63
6	T Thammayya S/o. Thippanna	26/5	1-00	0-24	-	DRY	0	2	0	1.63
7	C B Neelamma W/o. Late Manjappa B. Lolakshamma W/o. Late Parameshappa B. Rathnamma W/o. Late Maheshappa, Basamma W/o. Late Suresh B (Joint)	26/6	1-00	0-24	-	DRY	0	1	12	1.63
8	Thippeswamy S/o. Late Rudrappa	26/7	1-00	0-24	-	DRY	0	1	12	1.63
9	S Ravi S/o. Somashekarappa, R Sagar minor's guardian S K Ravi, R Prajwal minor's guardian S K Ravi (Joint)	27/1	3-29	2-05	-	DRY	0	37	0	4.51
10	N B Ekanthappa S/o. Bommappa	27/2	1-34	0-34	-	DRY	0	19	0	2.24
11	Bharathamma B M W/o. Late Nagarajappa	27/3	1-35	0-35	-	DRY	0	21	0	2.27
12	Varun M D S/o. M Devaraj	28/2	4-20	4-20	-	DRY	2	36	0	6.71
13	Basamma M alias Nilamabike M K W/o. Niranjanamurthy, Shivaprasad J N S/o. late Niranjanmurthy (Joint)	45/1	4-12	4-12	-	DRY	3	3	0	7.62
	Total Extent						**9**	**8**	**8**	

ABSTRACT

Sl. No.	Village	Classification	Acquired Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G-An)	A Kharab (A-G-An)	B Kharab (A-G-An)	Balance (A-G-An)
1	Muttugaduru	Road	-	-	-	-
		Dry Land	9-08-08	-	-	9-08-08
		Park	-	-	-	-
		CA Land	-	-	-	-
		Total	**9-08-08**	**-**	**-**	**9-08-08**

• Compensation will not be fixed for Road, CA Land, Park, Layout Road

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/836/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, Malleshwaram Zone, 1st Floor, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560 010.

No. EE/RNR/PR/297/2025-26 Date : 20.01.2026

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub : Correction for Tender Notification Dates.

Ref : EE(RNR)/KPPP/02/2025-26/CALL-2, Dated : 02.01.2026

This is to notify that, the calender of events as per ref (1) is modified due to technical reasons, the revised calender of events is show below :

The Modified dates Read as : (1) Last Date & Time for receipt of tender upto **: 06.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs** (2) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid on **: 07.02.2026 at 17.30 hrs** (3) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid on **: 16.02.2026 at 17.00 hrs.**

All other terms and conditions of the notifications remains the same.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagar Division, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-75/1720/2025-26 **Date: 22.01.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work : Construction of Storm Water Drain from Ch.0.00m to 550.00m of Road No.35 at Sub Layout-4 of Hassan Growth Center Industrial Area, Hassan District. (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **07.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5176/NR/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Fondly Remembered on Fourth Death Anniversary

(15-06-1943 - 23-01-2022)

Dr. Ramadas Abboy M.D.

California, USA

Your example has enlightened countless lives.
You are always living in our Hearts.

Thayar Abboy Thirumana Mandapam
Indo-American College
Indo-American School - Cheyyar 604407
Beverly Hotels (P) Limited, Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010
Family and Friends

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

Office: 08262 - 230420 Fax:0862232272 Commissioner : 08262 – 232272 Help Line: 08262-232222 E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website: www.chickmagalur.gov.in

No. CMC/CKM/CMW/CR/88/2025-26 Date: 19.12.2025

Re-Tender Notice (Through E-Procurement Process)

Re-tenders are invited in two-cover format from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department for the execution of the following works sanctioned under various schemes for the year 2025-26 through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/. Interested contractors may submit their tenders subject to the conditions.

Details of the work : DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT52484/CALL-2 **Estimated amount :** Rs. 76.20 lakhs **EMD :** Rs. 1,29,100.00 **Reservation :** Category-2A

Tender form price : As per e-procurement. Duration : 06 months (excluding rainy season)

1.Last date for submission of tenders on e-ProcurementPortal: 05.02.2026 up to 17.00 hrs.

2. The technical bid will be opened on date: 07.02.2026 at 11.00 AM.

3. The financial bid will be opened on date: 09.02.2026 at 11.00 AM.

For more details, you can contact the office during office hours and also obtain information by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. If there are any changes due to any reason, they will be published only on the e-portal. They will not be published in the newspapers. The contractors can notice the same on the KPP portal.

Sd/- (Smt. B. Sheela Dinesh) President **Sd/- (Smt. Lalitha Ravinaik) Vice President**
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru. **City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.**
Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm/No.144/ksmca/25-26/1682

Four-officer team to hold preliminary inquiry against Rao

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has formed a team of four IPS officers, led by R. Hitendra, Additional Director-General of Police (Law and Order), to conduct a preliminary inquiry in the case pertaining to videos purportedly showing the now suspended Director-General of Police K. Ramachandra Rao misbehaving with multiple women in his office.

The government was mulling over handing over the case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). However, a committee has now been formed to hold a preliminary inquiry. Based on this report, the next course of action will be decided. With the women in the video not coming forward to lodge any complaints, there is no scope for a criminal investigation and only an inquiry can be held, sources said.

The inquiry committee will have Chetan Singh Rathore, Inspector-General of Police (Northern Range), Kala Krishnaswamy, Deputy Inspector-General of Police (Crimes), and C.B. Ryshyanth, Superintendent of Police (Wireless), as members.

The committee will now verify the veracity of the videos and other allegations, sources said. Mr. Rao has claimed the videos are doctored using AI tools.

Despite higher delinquency trend, microfinance lending is recovering: AKMI

In Karnataka it is now around ₹58,000 crore, with about 1.07 crore active loan accounts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Microfinance lending in Karnataka, which is now around ₹58,000 crore with about 1.07 crore active loan accounts, is showing signs of recovery, industry sources say.

While the MFIs have been witnessing recovery since October, 2025, the industry sources said that lending has been strict after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) brought "guardrails", tightening the lending process.

Currently, the top five districts by number of accounts are Belagavi, Mysuru, Bengaluru (Rural and Urban), Tumakuru, and Mandya, said a note from AKMI, which organised "The Microfinance Karnataka Summit 2026" in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

It said that loan book growth in the State's microfinance sector is robust and growing. The pre-provision operating profit to assets under management, which had weakened in 2024-2026, is projected to improve in the 2027 financial year.

"In the last three months, the recovery has been around 98%-99%. The cost of credit to the companies is expected to decline to around 4% in 2026-2027," Association of Karnataka Microfinance Institutions (AKMI) sources said.

Money matters

- Total active microfinance accounts in Karnataka: **1.07 crore**
- Total portfolio: **₹58,989 crore**
- **Top five districts by number of accounts:** Belagavi, Mysuru, Bengaluru (Rural and Urban), Tumakuru, and Mandya
- **Top five districts in terms of portfolio size:** Bengaluru (Rural and Urban), Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru, and Mandya
- The portfolio delinquency rate has come down to **5.60%** from **8.59%**
- Delinquency rate in Belagavi, Mandya, Davangere and Chamarajanagar districts is over **6%**
- Delinquency rate in Vijayanagara, Mysuru, and Tumakuru districts is over **5%**
- In 10 districts, loan outstanding remained at **₹12,128 crore** by the end of November 2025.

Data source: AKMI

Higher delinquency

However, owing to several factors including floods/rainfall and misinformation over credit repayment, the MFIs had found recovery tough and NPAs had increased. The loan portfolio, which was around ₹70,000 crore before the industry came under stress owing to higher delinquency in 2025, is now around ₹58,000 crore.

However, the delinquency rate in Belagavi, Mandya, Davangere, and Chamarajanagar districts continue to be over 6%, while in Vijayanagara, Mysuru, and Tumakuru districts it is over 5%, according to data released by AKMI.

In 10 Karnataka districts, loan outstanding remained at ₹12,128 crore by the end of November 2025. The data also said that the Karnataka market has witnessed asset quality decline.

'Misinformation'

Sources said that after a "misinformation campaign" that the microfinance loans would be waived by the government and in anticipation of a legislation in this regard, many loan accounts became delinquent, causing stress. AKMI sources said that confusion arose owing to operation of unlicensed lenders, who on many occasions used force to recover credit.

"The RBI-registered companies did not recover money through force," the sources claimed.

Harassment reports

Adding to confusion were a large number of reports of harassment in loan recovery, leading to close to a dozen suicides. As many as 134 FIRs have been filed across the State.

Cabinet allows five-year age relaxation for Karnataka Civil Services examinations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved relaxation in age eligibility criteria for candidates appearing for Karnataka Civil Services exams to various posts. Sources said that the government has approved five years relaxation across all categories, who will be appearing for direct recruitments through all notifications till December 31, 2027.

Internal quota

Sources said that the decision was taken since public recruitment has been affected owing to several reasons, including over the issue of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes.

It is also learnt that the State Cabinet has approved allotment of land to 22 Dalit and Backward Classes mutts in Ravuttanahalli village in Bengaluru North taluk in Bengaluru Urban district. This follows an earlier announcement by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

For nomadic groups

The Karnataka Cabinet has approved construction of 600 sq ft. homes on a 1,200 sq ft. plot to families from Alemari (nomadic) and Are Alemari (semi nomadic) communities at a cost of ₹100 crore, following a proposal moved by the Backward Classes Department.

The Cabinet is also learnt to have approved ₹145.03 crore to purchase food kits worth ₹2,415 each to be distributed among 50,000 Scheduled Tribes families in eight districts under the nutritious food scheme.

New buses

It is also learnt that the Cabinet approved purchase of 50 buses to the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and 150 buses to North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation at a cost of ₹247 crore.

Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions gets nod

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday approved setting up of "Centre for Applied AI for Tech Solutions" in association with NASSCOM at a cost of ₹20 crore to be spent over four years.

The centre, which will be set up at the KEONICS facility in HSR layout here, will help in accelerating AI adoption and digital transformation across sectors. Besides the State government, the centre will be funded by MeitY and industry partners, a note from IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge said.

"The centre will be a launchpad for deep tech start-ups and industry collaborations. By bringing government, academia, and industry together, we are building a pipeline from research to market ready innovation," the Minister said.

Over the next four years, the note said that the initiative envisages collaboration with global technology and industry leaders and the centre is expected to establish advanced laboratories and testing facilities, support deep tech start-ups and facilitate proof of concepts and technology commercialiszation.

It said that the key performance indicators for the centre will include the number of start-ups incubated, prototypes developed, intellectual property filings, industry collaborations, and skilled professionals trained.

ED attaches properties worth ₹20.85 crore in MUDA case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached 10 immovable properties worth ₹20.85 crore in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

The attachment was carried out under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in the case allegedly involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others, ED said in a statement issued on Thursday.

According to the statement, the attached assets include six illegally allotted MUDA sites, three immovable properties, and one commercial building.

The ED initiated its investigation based on an FIR taken up by the Lokayukta Police, Mysuru. The case pertains to large-scale irregularities in the allotment of sites by MUDA. The agency conducted searches on October 18 and October 28, 2024.

The searches allegedly revealed that the allotments were made in violation of a letter dated March 14, 2023, a government order issued on October 27, 2023, the Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Allotment of Sites in lieu of compensation for the land acquired) Rules, 2009 (as amended in 2015), and the Karnataka Urban Development Authority (Incentive Scheme for Voluntary Surrender of Land) Rules, 1991.

The ED stated that its investigation uncovered a deep nexus between MUDA officers and real estate businessmen. Evidence also pointed to the payment of cash for the allotment of sites as compensation and for the approval of layouts.

Why was more serious offence not invoked against Cong. leader Rajeev Gowda? asks HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday asked the police why they didn't invoke the more serious offence of "insulting modesty of a woman by word, gesture or act" against Congress leader B.V. Rajeev Gowda for using abusive language and threatening the Sidlaghatta City Municipal Council (CMC) Commissioner in Chickballapur district on the issue of removal of flexes and banners containing his portrait.

The court made these observations while dismissing a petition by Mr. Gowda, 46, for quashing the First Information Report (FIR) registered against him on January 14 on a complaint lodged by CMC Commissioner Amritha.G and another person.

"A plain reading of the complaint and the conversation would unmistakably reveal that Mr. Gowda has spoken in a manner that strikes at the dignity of a woman or even other public servants and the language and tenor attributed to the him would, *prima facie*, disclose offences under Section 79 [word, gesture or act intended to insult modesty of a woman] of the Bharatiya Nayaya Sanhita (BNS)," the court observed.

Rajeev Gowda

The court said that "it is difficult to comprehend as to how the prosecution has not invoked this offence [Section 79 of BNS], notwithstanding the nature of the conversation attributed to the petitioner, as it was against a woman who is a public servant."

The Sidlaghatta Town Police had only invoked Sections 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 224 (threat of injury to public servant), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation by threat) of the BNS against him.

Stating that he was willing to tender a public apology, the petitioner had contended that there was no material for invoking Section 132, which is the only cognisable offence among the offences invoked against him.

Illegal banners

Meanwhile, the court observed that it is high time that the State government wakes up and enforces the law in earnest against unauthorised banners, placards, and flexes as such publicity materials erected indiscriminately create a menace.

High command to drive BJP's electioneering

CIVIC POLLS

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) high command has put in charge a heavy-duty panel to drive the party's campaign and ticket distribution for the upcoming Bengaluru civic polls. This is a reflection of the party unit in the State being in disarray and the high command taking things into their own hands, party insiders say.

The strategy of high command-driven micro-managed campaigns, overseen by the party's key strategists, for civic polls is not unique to Bengaluru. It was tried with good results in Hyderabad and Kerala.

It was first attempted in 2020, when Bhupender Yadav, the party's key strategist and a close associate of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, was in charge for civic polls in Hyderabad. But unlike in Karnataka, the party is weak in these States. The BJP high command did not send any leaders from the Centre to oversee the recent civic polls in Maharashtra, including for Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the richest civic body in the country, where the BJP won. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis drove the party's campaign and electioneering as well.

A view of the Greater Bengaluru Authority building. The strategy of the BJP high command-driven campaigns for civic polls is not unique to Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

However, despite the BJP forming the government in the State twice and winning majorities in Bengaluru's municipality in the last two polls, the high command has appointed a veteran like Ram Madhav, a key strategist in critical areas like the North East and Jammu and Kashmir, as the in-charge. This seems like a clear sign of "no confidence" in the local leadership, a senior leader of the party in the State said.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra has been facing consistent dissent within the party, with calls for changing him reaching the high command. With a new national president at the helm, whether he will be reappointed as the State president or not is still a question. Suspension of rebel leader Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal from the party has not put an end to dissidence.

Meanwhile, there is dissidence in the Bengaluru region as well. R. Ashok, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, was once seen as the party's face for the city. However, he has also been facing open opposition from several quarters, including the city's Vokkaliga BJP MLAs, the community he belongs to. The city unit of the party, like the State unit, is suffering from multiple factions.

"We welcome the high command appointing Mr. Madhav as incharge for GBA polls, as this would prevent any faction trying to dominate ticket distribution. Now we hope surveys, data and winnability will guide the exercise," said a former city BJP councillor.

In 2015, though the BJP won a simple majority in the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council, the Congress, in power then as well, came together with the JD(S) and Independents and snatched power from the BJP for four years. This post-poll mismanagement by local BJP leaders is also one of the reasons why the high command doesn't want to take any chances this time, sources in the party said.

Customs seize ₹38.6 cr. drugs from air traveller

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday intercepted a passenger arriving from Brazil's Sao Paulo and seized cocaine worth ₹38.6 crore.

In a statement, officials said the passenger was stopped at Terminal 2 of KIA and was found in possession of 7.72 kg of cocaine, estimated to be worth around ₹38.6 crore. According to officials, the contraband was concealed inside children's books, and the packets were also wrapped inside a bag.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 23	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:16
RISE 09:50	SET 22:13
SATURDAY, JAN. 24	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 10:29	SET 23:05
SUNDAY, JAN. 25	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:17
RISE 11:10	SET 24:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Text & Context and Health

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (January 23, Friday), the following articles are available:

- The limits of household stability **newsth.live/householddebts**
- Thyroid testing should be driven by clinical suspicion, say doctors **newsth.live/thyroidtest**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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A government notification acknowledged grasslands as 'unique ecosystems that are characteristic of dry open areas where grasses form the predominant vegetation'. However, garbage dumping continues at Hesaraghatta.
PHOTOS: N. RAVICHANDRAN

Is the grass greener with the new tag for this pasture?

A year after the Hesaraghatta Grasslands got the conservation reserve tag, **K.C. Deepika** visits the area to see if there has been a transformation from 'wasteland' to a biodiversity hotspot

After braving the city traffic and a deep trench dug up near the Government Film and Television Institute to prevent vehicles from entering, the sight that meets the eye is underwhelming compared to earlier pictures of the Hesaraghatta Grasslands.

But for the sudden, large expanse of open space, there is none of the dreamy, tall grass that one often sees in old photos, except for a patch inside the institute. Instead, what greets you are scrawny old saplings that have been called out for being unscientifically planted in the wrong landscape, and evidence of bonfires and beer parties in the several bottles and litter left behind.

At the time of our visit, a pre-wedding photography session was in progress at a distance, and local residents say it is a common affair. A hare races away from its spot near some rocks, hearing human voices.

> Since getting the conservation tag, not much has changed for Hesaraghatta. It is not a national park or reserve forest, So, the land ownership remains with the Animal Husbandry Department and the BWSSB
>
> **MAHESH BHAT,** photographer and filmmaker

Film city to biodiversity hotspot

Before 2025, these grasslands were in the news primarily for being the choice of 'real estate' for the Karnataka government to set up ambitious projects such as a film city or a theme park, much to the chagrin of environmentalists. Successive governments failed to see what it really is: an important reservoir of biodiversity, a refuge for endangered wildlife species, a 'carbon sink'.

It was not until 2003-04 that things began to move, recalls Mahesh Bhat, a photographer and filmmaker who has been working on preserving the Arkavathy catchment for over two decades. "Following a drought, when the Hesaraghatta lake had completely dried up, a group of local people wanted to rejuvenate it," he said. As the group started surveying the area, they discovered that the channel that used to bring rainwater runoff from Dasenahalli khana was filled with silt.

"We decided to open the channel," he said, recalling how village people started digging the channel over the weekends manually. Water flowed, and more volunteers started pitching in – one bore the charges of heavy machinery, and the MEG got involved in desilting.

"Around 2006-07, there were also groups involved in the conservation of Kumudvathy and Arkavathy basins," he says. These groups then got together to bring in some political push into rejuvenating the catchments.

The government of Karnataka had leased this land to Mysore Film Development Corporation (MFDC) in 1972 to build a film city. MFDC was later renamed Karnataka Film Development Corporation (KFDC), but it closed down. "The rights of this land were temporarily vested with Kanteerava studios, which used to rent out the area for Kannada film shootings. We had to clean up the mess created by it," Mahesh said.

Long before this, in 1942, this piece of land was sold to the Department of Animal Husbandry by the then Maharaja of Mysore for ₹10,000.

In 2012, the film city proposal came up again, which prompted the Arkavathy and Kumudvathy Nadi Punaschethana Samithi to file a PIL against the project in the High Court of Karnataka. "The Advocate General said that the government will maintain the status quo till it took a decision on the status of the land. The government decided to give the land back the department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services," he added.

It was only in January 2025 that the Karnataka Cabinet approved the declaration of Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve (GHGCR), comprising 5,678 acres. While the proposal was first mooted in 2013, the declaration of the area as a conservation reserve had been deferred owing to pressure from certain sections, including local bodies. But the nod from the State Board for Wildlife in October 2024 paved the way for the conservation reserve tag.

Finally, a conservation reserve

The government notification, dated February 24, stated the area is being declared the "Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve (GHGCR) for its ecological, faunal, floral and geomorphological importance, and for the purpose of protecting, propagating and developing grassland and wildlife therein or its environment, and to protect the important catchment area around Hesaraghatta, which is one of the sources of water for Bengaluru city".

It acknowledged grasslands as "unique ecosystems that are characteristic of dry open areas where grasses form the predominant vegetation", and how "grasslands are equal, if not more important than any forest".

"They sustain biodiversity and hold a lot of atmospheric carbon. Conserving the grasslands helps to reduce the impacts of global warming and climate change caused by excess carbon dioxide. The said area not only gives shelter to various types of plants, animals, birds, reptiles and insects, but also has become a shelter to various types of biomasses," it stated. "Hesaraghatta lake bed and grasslands in the surrounding catchment area are an important reservoir of biodiversity and a refuge for endangered wildlife species such as leopard, slender loris, jackal, Indian fox, Smooth Coated Otter, wild pig, common mongoose, Black Naped Hare, Indian Mole Rat and Indian Field Mouse. In addition, there are seven different species of snakes observed in Hesaraghatta grasslands."

The Hesaraghatta landscape is a site for several wintering migrants from Europe, Central Asia and Himalayas, including several species of raptors. One of the migratory birds is the Greater Spotted Eagle, and globally threatened species like the Lesser Florican and the Red-necked falcon, the notification adds.

A year on...

A year later, has anything changed on the ground? Local residents are unenthused.

Umesh, 53, who was born and brought up here and runs a makeshift tea stall outside the grasslands, said there is one guard stationed for the over 300-acre grassland, and garbage dumping continues despite trenches being dug up to prevent access to vehicles.

Instead, the trenches have deterred local cattle grazers.

Basavaraj, 42, from Dasenahalli village, said he had stopped taking his cows to the grassland as they could not cross the trenches. "There is also a leopard problem. So, I don't want to take the risk," he added.

H.M. Yeshwanth, 43, is an entomologist who has grown up here. "I was an avid bird watcher during school. This was like an airport landing for raptors and falcons. There were no trees excepting these two," he said, pointing to two large trees at a distance.

Mahesh said the ideal term for the grassland should be Open Natural Ecosystems (ONEs). "Since getting the conservation tag, not much has changed for Hesaraghatta. It is not a national park or reserve forest, So, the land ownership remains with the Animal Husbandry Department and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB). However, the government has to constitute a management committee, which has not happened. The Forest Minister, during his recent visit, had made it clear that foraging, grazing and fishing rights will remain. Now, some boundary markers are being placed. So, work seems to have begun."

> The grasslands in and around the reserve are an important water catchment. They can prevent run-off of water and soil during rains. and help recharge groundwater.
>
> **SESHADRI K.S.,** Faculty member at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

"The grassland is a small 345-acre portion of the 5,000-odd acres. It will always be a porous area. So, a lot of garbage is being dumped. People continue to go in with vehicles for photography, eat, drink and litter. It is not the locals, but the visitors. In the grassland, overgrazing is a problem. It should be regulated, like fishing in coastal areas," he added.

The road ahead

Seshadri K.S., ecologist and faculty member at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, who was involved in making the proposal to declare the area a conservation reserve, said all grasslands in India suffer owing to people's ignorance and indifference. "They are seen as wastelands, and this needs to change. The wasteland atlas of India, for example, classifies many native grassland habitats as wastelands, and they are either subject to an onslaught of plantation drives, or are diverted to a different land use. Grasslands or community owned grazing lands, such as gomala land or karab land, are subject to apathy and encroachments."

While grasslands don't look like forests, they hold immense biodiversity and capture substantial amounts of carbon, he said, adding that the grasslands of Hesaraghatta have been a source of bioresources. "An insect called Neodusmetia Sangwanii was discovered in these grasslands, which has been used as a biological pest control agent in the U.S., and likely saved the golf turf and beef industry back in the day. By losing the grasslands, we stand to lose several such tangible and intangible benefits. The shift in people's perspective cannot happen overnight, and this requires continued engagement and awareness," he added.

Apart from bioresource, the grasslands at Hesaraghatta are an important roosting site for birds such as the Harriers.

"We have about four species, which migrate all the way from Kazakhstan and parts of Central Asia. Recent research by my colleagues has shown that these birds are responsible for seed dispersal, and shape ecosystems. They primarily feed on birds, such as larks, which consume grass seeds. The Harriers eat these larks and regurgitate the undigestible parts out at roosting sites. The researchers collected the pellets and examined them for seeds. They found an incredible diversity of seeds, and many of the seeds were viable. So, the simple act of having a bird roost in an area is silently shaping ecosystems by dispersing seeds, and shaping the grassland ecosystem," he said.

For those in Bengaluru, the grasslands in and around the reserve are an important water catchment. They can prevent run-off of water and soil during rains. and help recharge groundwater. People around the lake are benefiting from ample water and salubrious local climate, he added.

Only the beginning

While the declaration of the conservation reserve has been a long-fought battle, it is only the beginning, says Seshadri.

"While the region is now officially protected, much work remains to be done in terms of setting up a committee to draft the management plan and obtain funds to ensure the region is protected. Rules for managing the conservation reserves should be consultative, and include representatives from the stakeholders. In the case of GHGCR, it includes representatives from the panchayat, the Department of Animal Husbandry, research organisations, and the Forest Department," he said.

He too said the first step is to constitute a committee and establish rules and regulations, which clearly articulate that existing bonafide users would not be excluded or harassed. "This was a primary fear behind the opposition to the reserve being declared. Then, the Forest Department has to obtain funds and demarcate the conservation reserve. and put up boards in Kannada and English, clearly stating the list of activities which are permitted. and secure protection by deploying guards and watchers for patrolling. There needs to be a check on unregulated cattle grazing. The grassland is also being used as a place for recreational motorbiking, and this needs to be stopped," he added.

Over the next few years, the GHGCR needs to be restored, by removing planted saplings from the grasslands and replacing them with native grass and herbs. This has to be done in a phased manner so as to prevent any environmental shock caused by sudden removal of trees or alterations of the habitat, he said.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, during a recent visit to the reserve, had assured of measures to not only protect the area, but also develop it with fund allocation and CSR help.

Getting a conservation reserve tag was no doubt a victory for the Hesaraghatta Grasslands, but only half the battle is won. As the Bannerghatta National Park, the other protected area near Bengaluru to its south, continues to battle various threats, it remains to be seen if the grass will be greener for the newly-formed Greater Hesaraghatta Grassland Conservation Reserve.

The grasslands at Hesaraghatta are an important roosting site for birds such as the Harriers. N. RAVICHANDRAN

At the table

Chefs and industry experts weigh in on how India will eat out in 2026, from healthier menus and local flavours to premium dining experiences

Anagha Maareesha
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The Indian diner in 2026 is clear about what they want when they go out. They are well-informed thanks to social media, and their travels, and conscious about what they eat and where they spend their money. At the same time health, wellness and thinness has never been more in the forefront of the zeitgeist. What does that mean for the F&B industry? And what is in store for Indian restaurants and bars in 2026? We find out...

Pooja Dhingra, leading pastry chef says Indian diners are now more curious and confident. In her own industry she says, desserts are not limited to celebrations anymore. "They are becoming part of daily rituals, for example, paired with coffee, enjoyed for breakfast, or shared casually. Small-format indulgences like warm cookies, madeleines, and coffee-friendly cakes are growing much faster than traditional, occasion desserts."

Time for regional dining

A decade ago, pan Asian restaurants took over the circuit. But the recent trend is geared towards more region-specific restaurants. While Chef Pema Takchung still prefers pan Asian due to the number of choices available, he has noticed a shift towards vregion-specific cuisines. In Bengaluru, we see restaurants focussing on Thai cuisines (Baan Phadthai) and Cantonese food (Royal China). Korean, however, still remains a favourite (Seoul Dak)."Dishes like bulgogi chicken, kimbap, requested frequently, and bokkum jjambbong, a stir-fried preparation of vegetables and noodles in a spicy Korean sauce, have seen growing interest," he says. And it is not only international. Regional Indian flavours are also having a moment, with bar menus going local. In Goa's Bar Outrigger, for instance, the Boondock Saints cocktail uses pasteis de nata (Portuguese custard tarts) from the legendary Padaria Prazeres infused into whiskey. The food menu in Boilermaker, also in Goa, sports dishes like balchao stuffed pickled cucumbers or prawn and chorizo in chilli oil.

Experiential dining, closer home

Ranjit Bindra, the founder of Bastian Hospitality, says premium dining is moving towards the experience as a whole. His restaurants include Bastian, now in many cities across the country, as well as Inka, a Peruvian Asian luxury dining concept. "Both the service and product need to be the hero. Diners are willing to spend, but only when the experience feels complete and personal."

Also, while menu-wise, global cuisine will continue to evolve, the local touch still matters. "At Riviera (their latest outpost in Goa), for example, we have a Goan curry, while Ammakai is rooted in Karnataka cuisine. That balance of global sensibility with local flavours is where dining is heading."

He adds that the scene is also moving out of the metros, a trend we noticed in 2025 as well.

"We are expanding Bastian to GIFT City, and there's Bastian Empire in Pune, which shows how strong the demand is in emerging cities. These markets now have well-travelled diners who are looking for premium, well-executed dining experiences closer to home, rather than say going to Dubai or another city."

At the recently concluded 30 Best Bars India 2025 awards, we noticed a similar trends emerging amongst cocktail bars and pubs as well. This year there were a number of new bars from Kolkata on the list.

"What's been particularly exciting to see is how cities such as Kolkata have come into their own this year; not just with increased representation, but with quality and range," says Vikram Achanta, founder and CEO of Tulleeho and the co-founder of 30 Best Bars India.

Making healthier dining choices

Pooja says, "People are moving away from excess as we have seen in the past, that means fewer layers, fewer components, and much better ingredients. Clean, well-balanced desserts are winning over dramatic, over-sweet ones. Most modern pastry recipes today have 15-30% less sugar than they did a decade ago, with flavour coming from bitterness, acidity, texture, and contrast instead. Ingredients like dark chocolate, coffee, citrus, nuts, and fermented dairy help create depth so desserts don't rely purely on sweetness. Portion sizes are also becoming smaller."

Chef Pema Takchung Lepcha, director and head chef of Hunaaan, has noticed this in Asian dining spaces as well. "People have become more health-conscious and want to be better informed about dishes and ingredients. There has been a shift from deep-fried dishes, along with increasing requests for ingredients like avocado and chia seeds. This is reflected in dishes such as our avocado garden sushi and silken tofu; guests often ask for stir-fried, steamed, or other healthier options."

Songs of the soul

The Bengaluru edition of Banyan Tree's Ruhaniyat - Seeking the Divine comes to the city this weekend

Musical moments Chand Nizami, one of the participants at Ruhaniyat 2026. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
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Banyan Tree's Ruhaniyat, the annual festival of saints and mystics set to song, turns 25 this year. To commemorate this milestone, the organisers have curated an interesting lineup of art forms from India that includes paakh from Jammu, gaatha from Punjab, ninda stuti and jonana from Odisha, tukkha gaan from West Bengal, mystical ugabhogas from Karnataka and nanthuni pattu from Kerala, besides international artistes.

Talking about the upcoming edition, Nandini Mahesh who co-founded the event with her husband Mahesh Babu, says the show started as an idea to usher in the millennium. "Back then, there were few takers for a show of this kind, especially as there were no big names headlining the event," says Nandini.

According to her, Ruhaniyat was conceptualised as a two-way process. "First, we wanted to bring alive these works that were written centuries ago, initially transmitted orally from one generation to the next. You find them thriving in the remotest corners and unexpected places of our country."

"We believe these living traditions need to be nurtured and through these performances, they get the recognition they deserve. Second, such programs fetch new audiences which is an encouragement for the artistes. Many art forms are almost extinct and some have already been lost."

Ruhaniyat began in Mumbai, before expanding to include Hyderabad, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Pune. This year, performing artistes include Eva Serrano who will present Spanish mystical compositions, Dawda Jobarteh of Gambia on African kora strings, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, a collaboration featuring Indian, Spanish and African artistes, among others.

Nandini says this line up is the result of a lot of research, "to introduce art forms to audiences who may not be aware of what they are missing. At the same time, we try to avoid repetitive acts. We are constantly on the look out for talent – that is how we are able to tap into them and curate our shows."

Banyan Tree's Ruhaniyat will take place at Jayamahal Palace Hotel on January 24, at 6.15pm. Tickets starting at ₹1,180 available on BookMyShow.

Cinema, craft and conversation

The 17th edition of BIFFes, to be held from January 29 to February 6, presents a global selection of films, master classes and workshops

Eyes on the prize Artistic director of BIFFes 2026 Murali PB. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Muralidhara Khajane

The 17th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes) is scheduled to take place from January 29 to February 6, 2026. Over 200 films will be screened across three venues – Lulu Mall in Rajajinagar, Dr Rajkumar Bhavana, Kalavidara Sangha in Chamarajapet and the Suchitra Film Society in Banashankari. Murali PB, artistic director for the 17th edition of BIFFes who has succeeded N Vidyashankar, has been involved with this platform for the last 10 years.

His engagement with BIFFes began as a film enthusiast and filmmaker, before he donned the hats of chief programmer and curator along the way.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu*, Murali discussed issues such as supporting new talent, showcasing global cinema and navigating industry changes, as well as the festival's emphasis on connection and bold storytelling.

"This edition of BIFFes will be the lengthiest one till date, running for nine days and includes an inaugural day screening. Over 200 films from more than 60 countries will be shown," says Murali.

"While 10-day film festivals are commonplace at Cannes, Toronto and Berlin, this is the first time BIFFes is hosting a nine-day cinema habba."

According to Murali, this edition advocates a blend of traditional and modern cinema. "I believe it will meet the expectations of all categories of movie lovers, courtesy the efforts of our festival curation team."

Talking about his vision as artistic director, Murali says, "My intention is to add value to the institution and BIFFes which opened new horizons for me. All my efforts have gone into celebrating global and local cinema holistically."

He adds, "We have focused on issues of social relevance, highlighted region-specific cinema and balanced art with commercial appeal."

This year's theme Stree Yendare Ashte Sake (Is it enough to be a woman?) revolves around women's empowerment and sensibilities, as well as gender equality.

Apart from films, other events at the festival include academic interactions, discourses, seminars, workshops and master classes. Veteran actor, filmmaker and producer Prakash Raj is the brand ambassador of this edition.

"In keeping with our theme, there will be a retrospective on Smita Patil, considered one of the greatest actresses in the history of Indian cinema," he says, adding that they will also be screening alpana Lajmi's *Rudaali*, *Bhavni Bhavai*, a Gujarati film by Ketan Mehta, Bimal Roy's *Do Bigha Jameen* and *Gehnu Lamai*, a Sri Lankan film by Sumitra Peries, restored by the Film Heritage Foundation."

Another highlight of this festival will be the screening of 35mm celluloid films, including Rajkumar classics such as *Uyyale* and *Sandhyaraga*.

Murali, an independent filmmaker who studied filmmaking at the Centre for Film and Drama at Goethe Institut-Max Mueller Bhavan, further says, "Bengaluru is a fast-growing cosmopolitan city with film culture in its genes. Reflecting this spirit, the edition spotlights debut filmmakers and offers opportunities to learn new techniques through full-fledged master classes and workshops."

Schedule of events and registration link available on biffes.org

STEPOUT

Cultural extravaganza

Yamini 2026, a dusk-to-dawn classical music and dance concert, organised by SPIC MACAY - IIMB Chapter in association with the Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) and Brigade Foundation, is set to return to the city.

At IIMB, Bannerghatta Rd, from January 25, 7.30pm to January 26, 6.30am. Entry is free and open to all. To register, log into www.iimb.ac.in/yamini_2026.

A woman's voice

Pratibimb Theatre Company will perform *God's Lioness, a* bold, reimagining of *The Mahabharata* through Draupadi's voice, featuring puppetry, masks, and movement inspired by Chhau and Kathakali. The play will be performed at multiple venues

At Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar, on January 23 at 7.30pm and Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, on January 24 at 3.30 and 7.30pm. Tickets for both venues, priced at ₹400, are available on BookMyShow.com.

Food talk

Cooks & Books, spotlighting Shahu Patole's *Dalit Kitchens of Marathwada,* will unpack the stories, histories, and lived realities of Marathwada's Dalit community. The conversation will take place between the book's author, Shahu Patole, chef Gautam Krishnankutty and writer Bijal Vachhrajani.

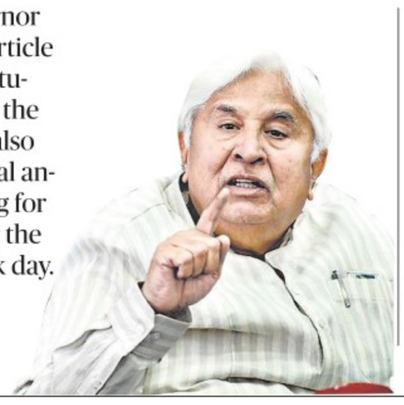
At Lightroom Bookstore, Cooke Town, on January 23, 6.30pm. To know more, message @goyajournal on Instagram

"The Governor by not reading the speech prepared by the Cabinet has violated Constitutional norms. This is also an insult to the House of elected representatives. We will protest this.

SIDDARAMAIAH,
Chief Minister

"The Governor violated Article 176 (1) of the Constitution by not reading the address in full. He also insulted the national anthem by not waiting for it to be played after the address. It is a black day.

H.K. PATIL,
Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

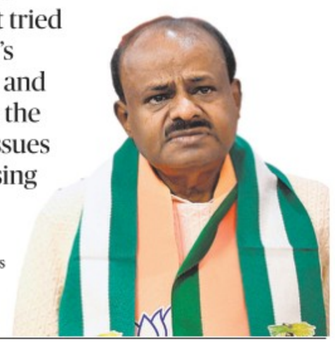


"The Governor could not have read the full speech as it was full of lies about VB-G RAM-G Act. When he refused to speak lies as per its wishes, the Congress misbehaved with him.

SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN,
Union Agriculture Minister

"To hide its failures and mislead the people, the government tried to misuse the Governor's office. This government and its Ministers tried to get the Governor to speak on issues that they have been raising on the streets

H.D. KUMARASWAMY,
Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel



'Suppressing Karnataka will adversely affect entire country'

The Governor's address said that VB-G RAM (G) Act 'reinstates migration to cities in search of employment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Criticism of the Narendra Modi-led Union government over alleged economic and policy discrimination against Karnataka reportedly irked Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, which led to him cutting short the address to the joint session of the Legislature on Thursday to just a few sentences.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot arrives for the joint session of the State legislature, in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Modes of 'suppression'

The remarks, included in the Governor's address, stated that Karnataka was facing a "suppressive situation" within the federal framework and that "injustice is being done to the State" in matters such as tax devolution, centrally sponsored schemes, central sector schemes, and special schemes.

However, the Governor's address to the Legislature was deemed to have been read.

Instead of reading out the full text of the government-prepared address – running to 122 paragraphs across 43 pages – when the session began, the Governor briefly addressed the legislators in Hindi and concluded with, "My government is committed to doubling the economic, social and physical development of the State. Jai Hind, Jai Karnataka."

The unread part of the Governor's speech said, highlighting "injustice" in tax devolution, centrally sponsored programmes and other schemes, "The Union government must seriously consider that economically suppressing Karnataka, which occupies a driving position in the national economy, will adversely affect the entire country."

It pointed out that during the period of the 15th Finance Commission, resources to the tune of ₹1.25 lakh crore were denied to the State, and this grave injustice has been brought to the notice of the 16th Finance Commission. "The government is firmly confident that this injustice will be rectified in the coming days," the text read.

The Congress government demanded the repeal of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act and the restoration of the MGNREGA. "Worker-centric rights under the MGNREGA have been diluted, and labourers are being placed under contractors' control," the Governor's speech said, adding that it would lead to "large-scale corruption".

'Capitalist interests'

The new law is designed to protect "corporate capitalist interests", the address said. "As a result, the noble objectives of rural asset creation and providing employment to labourers at their place of residence have been reduced to nothing," the government stated, calling it an "anti-progressive" move. The MGNREGA was "a monumental chapter" for rural India, the government said, and that its repeal "has deprived rural wage labourers, small farmers, and women of their rights to employment and unemployment allowance."

The MGNREGA was launched in 2005 in line with Mahatma Gandhi's vision to make villages independent and autonomous. "Over the last 20 years, the State has undertaken 76.89 lakh works under this scheme at a cost of ₹61,030 crore and generated 182.5 crore person-days of employment," the Governor's address said, adding that the VB-G RAM (G) Act "reinstates migration to cities in search of employment".

"Under the new Act, States already facing financial stress due to Union policies must contribute 40% of the funding... If States fail to contribute, the Centre will withhold funds, leading the scheme towards gradual extinction."

The Governor had expressed his reservations against these paragraphs in the prepared speech and staged a walkout by reading only a couple of sentences in the House.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the State would be burdened by ₹3,000 crore annually by reducing the Centre's share in the job scheme from 90% to 60%.

Congress, BJP members cross swords in House over Governor's address

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ruling Congress and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party members were involved in a heated exchange in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, following Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's truncated address to the joint session of the Legislature.

While the Congress accused the Governor of insulting the National Anthem, the BJP demanded the suspension of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil for allegedly insulting the Governor.

When the House reassembled soon after the Governor's address, Mr. Patil made a brief statement, accusing Mr. Gehlot of "insulting" the national anthem by walking out of the House without waiting for it to be played.

He said that the Governor, who is expected to act as a protector of the Constitution, had acted against Constitutional spirit by staging a walkout after delivering a brief address.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok objected to Speaker U.T. Khader's decision to allow Mr. Patil to make a statement without first taking up the obituary references listed on the agenda.

Leader of the Opposition of the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and other BJP MLAs during the legislature session, at Vidhana Soudha, in Bengaluru, on Thursday.

He sought an opportunity to respond, stating that Mr. Patil was the "main accused" in what he described as the "high drama" that unfolded after the Governor's address.

Mr. Ashok further alleged that Mr. Patil had insulted the Governor by raising his voice after the customary address by Mr. Gehlot, and by allowing Congress members to raise slogans against the Governor.

V. Sunil Kumar (BJP) claimed that the Congress had insulted the Governor because of his Dalit identity and demanded action against Mr. Patil. He questioned the Congress's moral authority to speak about respect for the national anthem, alleging that its leaders had earlier raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the Secretariat.

The BJP members also strongly objected to what they termed the Speaker's "biased conduct" of House proceedings and reiterated their demand for the suspension of Mr. Patil for insulting the Governor and causing disruption in the Assembly.

Chouhan attacks Cong. by referring to 'scams' in job scheme in Yadgir, Kalaburagi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that the Congress has been spreading lies about the VB-G RAM-G Act as it wil end the party's "game of commission", Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday trained his guns on "corruption and irregularities" in implementation of MGNREGA in Yadgir and Kalaburagi districts.

The Union Minister's attack came hours after the commotion over Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot refusing to read State's allegations over the VB-G RAM-G Act in his address to the joint session of the State Legislature. Incidentally, Kalaburagi is the home district of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and his son and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge is incharge of the district.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Chouhan displayed media reports on a few men disguising as women by wearing sarees to illegally claim wages to the tune of ₹3 lakh under the MGNREGA scheme through false identity.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, along with Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy, BJP State president B. Y. Vijayendra, and others addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Cases of irregularities

"There were 3,551 cases of irregularities where the work had been done only on paper. Though the Congress government could have recovered ₹ 107.78 crore that had been illegally paid in such cases, it did nothing," he alleged.

Even the CAG, in its report, had referred to such scams in the job scheme and recommended recovery of ₹24.12 crore. But the Congress government in Karnataka recovered only ₹2.47 crore, he alleged.

Mr. Chouhan said his Ministry had conducted an inquiry following complaints and it had shown that instead of persons, machines had been used in execution of 21 works in five village panchayats of Aland in Kalaburagi district in 2024-25.

He sought to brush aside allegations that the Narendra Modi-led government had failed to provide emphasis to the job scheme.

"A total of ₹48,549.82 crore has been sanctioned to the scheme by the Narendra Modi government so far to Karnataka alone as against ₹8,739.32 crore given by the erstwhile UPA government," he said.

He maintained that the Karnataka Governor could not have read the full text of the speech before the legislature as it was full of lies about VB-G RAM-G Act. "When the Governor refused to speak lies, the Congress misbehaved with him," Mr. Chouhan alleged and demanded action against the culprits.

Orientation

Mr. Chouhan later conducted an orientation session on the new job scheme for the legislators, MPs and prominent leaders of the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular). Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy too attended the orientation session.

BJP writes to Speaker seeking action against members

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the disruptions during Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot's exit after his brief address to the joint session of Legislature as "one of the darkest days" in the history of the House, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok has written to Speaker U.T. Khader, demanding disciplinary action against those MLAs and MLCs who were engaged in "misconduct".

Stating that the Governor had fulfilled his Constitutional duty, he accused Congress legislators of behaving "like street rowdies", violating legislative conventions and showing "disrespect to the Constitution, the Governor and the House".

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok with MLA and BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra addressing the media in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

BJP State unit president B.Y. Vijayendra said that the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah should conduct the joint session of the Legislature under "healthy democratic principles and cooperative federalism", without inserting content in the Governor's address that the Congress government had been "consistently indulging in propaganda" against Central schemes, and said it was "unfortunate" that even a constitutional office was being used for this purpose.

Welcoming the Governor's stand that he would not read remarks that could "harm the unity and integrity of the nation", he termed the government's conduct "unconstitutional" and "condemnable".

He further said that while the Congress claims to champion federalism, in Karnataka it was "misusing the Legislature to vent political hostility towards the Centre". He accused the government of violating constitutional and federal norms and of prioritising "politics of confrontation" over development.

Mr. Vijayendra said that over the last eight sessions, the government had passed five resolutions against the Union government, which he described as an attempt to weaken the federal system.

Hiding failures: HDK

Meanwhile, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy held the Congress government in the State responsible for Thursday's political development.

"To hide its failures and mislead the people, the government tried to misuse the Governor's office. This only shows the government's mean mentality. This government and its Ministers tried to get the Governor to speak on the issues that they have been raising every now and then on the streets," he said.

targeting the Union government. He clarified that the BJP had no objection to the Governor delivering the speech, but said the Governor had objected to "misleading and propagandist material" drafted by the State.

Mr. Vijayendra alleged

Valmiki corporation fraud case: HC notice to MLA B. Nagendra on CBI's plea to cancel anticipatory bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered issue of notice to Ballari MLA and former Minister B. Nagendra on a petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which sought cancellation of anticipatory bail granted by the special court in a fraud case involving the alleged misappropriation of over ₹89 crore of the State-run Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav, who heard the CBI's petition, adjourned further hearing till January 29 asking the investigation agency to serve notice on Mr. Nagendra.

The Special Court of Sessions for Criminal Cases against Former and Present MPs and MLAs had on January 14 granted anticipatory bail by observing that the CBI did not produce materials to show that Mr. Nagendra was involved in various misappropriation of funds or on requirement of his custodial interrogation even though he had responded to several notices issued to him by the CBI.

CBI's advocate P. Prasanna Kumar told the court that the certain funds from Valmiki corporation's bank account were transferred to the accounts of two women in Mumbai, who in turn purchased ornaments from that money. Mr. Nagendra, who was then the Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Youth Empowerment and Sports, had overnight met these women in Mumbai.

Stating that Mr. Nagendra was non-cooperative for the probe, the CBI said that grant of anticipatory bail to him had hindered the High Court-monitored probe, it was argued, while pointing out that the CBI was also required to submit regular status report on the investigation into the case.

The special court erred in its finding even though the CBI had submitted investigation materials before it, the High Court was informed.

Centre permits Karnataka to procure 1.01 lakh tonnes of Bengal gram

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shivraj Singh Chouhan PTI

Accusing the Congress government in Karnataka of failure to protect farmers' interest, Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday granted permission to Karnataka to procure 1,01,340 tonnes of Bengal gram under the market intervention scheme by paying Minimum Support Prices (MSP). Mr. Chouhan, who was in Bengaluru to coach the Opposition BJP and JD (S) members on the VB-G RAM-G Act, said a sum of ₹ 595.37 would be granted to procure the above quantum of Bengal gram. Launching a tirade at the Congress government in Karnataka, he alleged that the Congress , which has been accusing the Centre of showing discrimination in terms of granting permission for procuring crops under the MSP, had acted against the interests of farmers by failing to meet the procurement target with respect to Tur Dal and Tothapuri mangoes. "Though the Centre had allowed it to procure three lakh tonnes of toor dal under MSP scheme in 2024-25 when the State witnessed a bumper harvest of the crop, the State government procured only 2.16 lakh tonnes. It could have stood with farmers in distress by procuring the full quantum of crop allotted to it," he said.

"Similarly, the Centre granted permission to procure 2.50 lakh tonnes of tothapuri variety of mango to bail out mango growers who were in a dire situation due to crash in demand. But the Congress government in Karnataka barely managed to procure 1.37 lakh tonnes," he alleged.

'T.N. govt. will move resolution opposing VB-G Ram G scheme'

The House witnessed a heated debate between Treasury Bench and Opposition over protests by a section of teachers and government employees, and on the provisions of theVB-G RAM G scheme

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin

The Tamil Nadu government will on Friday move a resolution in the Assembly opposing the Union Government's VB-G Ram G scheme [replacing MGNERGS), Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced on Thursday during a debate in the Assembly.

The House witnessed a heated debate between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition over protests by a section of teachers and government employees, and on the provisions of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme introduced by the Union government. Speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address, AIADMK MLA P. Thangamani said under VB-G RAM G, the number of guaranteed working days had been increased from 100 to 125.

However, Minister for Rural Development I. Periyasamy objected to removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and replacing it with VB-G RAM G. He also alleged that the Centre had disproportionately changed the fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and the States to 60:40 under the VB-G RAM G, against the 100% Central funding under MGNREGS.

Leader of the Opposition Edappadi K. Palaniswami said the AIADMK had opposed the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme, but the DMK had failed to fulfil its poll promise of increasing the guaranteed working days under MGNREGA from 100 to 150.

Mr. Thangamani listed some of the poll promises made by the DMK in the run-up to the 2021 Assembly poll and said there was no announcement regarding several pending promises.

Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu contended that the DMK had fulfilled 90% of its poll promises. Mr. Thangamani said the DMK government should hold talks with protesting teachers and government employees and fulfil their demands.

Mr. Stalin intervened and said government employees had the right to place their demands and to protest. However, with the intention that even such rightful protests should come to an end and not continue indefinitely, Ministers had invited them for talks.

"We did not invoke TESMA or ESMA. We did not arrest them overnight. All this happened during the AIADMK regime [2001-06]," he added.

Governors' actions in T.N., Karnataka, Kerala show 'deliberate pattern': Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Governors of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka either altering or refusing to read out their customary address in the Assembly read out the speech (customary address in Assembly) prepared by respective State governments, prepared by the respective State governments, showed a pattern which was "clear and deliberate", Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Thursday.

Referring to the action of Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot on Thursday, Mr. Stalin posted: "First Tamil Nadu. Then Kerala. Now Karnataka. The pattern is clear and deliberate. Governors refusing to read the speech prepared by State governments and behaving like party agents, undermining duly elected state governments."

Solution

Mr. Stalin contended that "the only solution now is to end the practice of commencing the first annual Assembly session with the Governor's address."

Amendment

The DMK will consult like-minded Opposition parties across India and pursue a constitutional amendment in the very next parliamentary session to abolish this obsolete and irrelevant practice, the Chief Minister said.

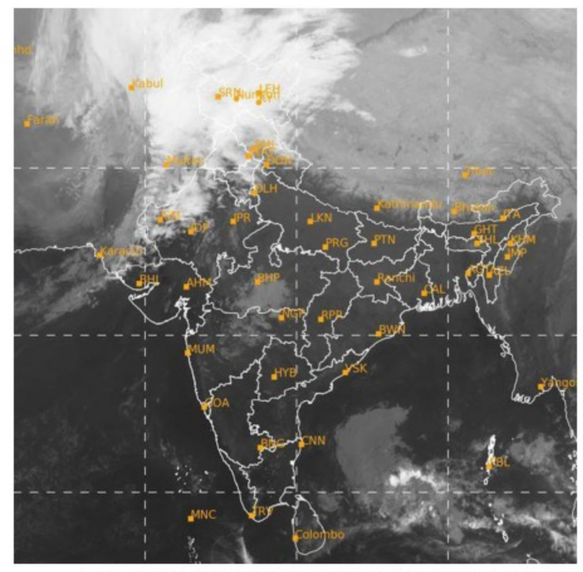
INBRIEF

3 killed in bus accident in A.P.

Three people died, two of them charred to death, in an accident involving a private bus and a lorry in Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday midnight. Two crew members and 36 passengers on board the bus managed to rush out of the vehicle safely before the fire. The lorry carrying e-vehicles was burnt completely. Lorry driver Naveen Kumar, 25, assistants Abhishek and Obulesu died by impact of the collision.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Sikkim and West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.9	12.0	Kozhikode	—	32.5	23.7
Ahmedabad	—	30.8	16.8	Kurnool	—	31.5	17.2
Aizawl	—	25.2	12.2	Lucknow	—	25.3	8.8
Allahabad	—	26.8	9.6	Madurai	—	32.0	18.7
Bengaluru	—	27.7	14.7	Mangaluru	—	32.9	20.6
Bhopal	—	27.5	11.2	Mumbai	—	30.5	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	30.2	14.0	Mysuru	—	29.4	15.0
Chandigarh	—	26.3	4.8	New Delhi	—	27.1	6.3
Chennai	—	30.0	21.2	Patna	—	24.6	13.4
Coimbatore	—	30.6	18.0	Port Blair	—	30.6	25.7
Dehradun	—	26.4	7.2	Puducherry	—	30.0	19.2
Gangtok	—	16.1	7.7	Pune	—	30.4	17.8
Goa	—	33.2	19.9	Raipur	—	30.0	16.4
Guwahati	—	27.1	14.2	Ranchi	—	25.6	8.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	12.0	Shillong	—	17.6	6.4
Hyderabad	—	27.7	16.7	Shimla	—	22.4	6.2
Imphal	—	25.2	6.7	Srinagar	—	7.5	-3.4
Jaipur	—	25.1	12.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.1	22.4
Kochi	—	30.4	23.4	Tiruchi	—	29.9	18.6
Kohima	—	17.0	6.4	Vijayawada	—	29.5	18.6
Kolkata	—	26.4	14.7	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	19.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	113	116	.34	201	—	
Bengaluru	5	20	.39	135	151	
Chennai	7	14	.51	102	120	
Delhi	8	185	104	384	388	
Hyderabad	7	13	.52	80	104	
Kolkata	8	105	.62	227	161	
Lucknow	8	32	.60	211	214	
Mumbai	.45	.84	.50	142	140	
Pune	.16	.71	.84	115	249	
Visakhapatnam	7	.93	.17	193	226	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 39

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Specialised ARM Branch
No.40, 1st Floor,Statue Square,
Opp to Chikka Gadiyara, Mysuru.
E-mail: cb7899@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated **03-11-2025** calling upon the **Borrower: 1) M/s Shiva Enterprises (Proprietorship Firm)** Kenchana Kuppe, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109. **2) Proprietor Cum Mortgagor: Sri Shivananjaiah B** S/o Boraiah, MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109 **3) Guarantor Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Prema T M** W/o Shivananjaiah MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562109 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, as on **03-11-2025** of **Rs. 95,53,212.65/- (Rupees Ninety Five Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Twelve and Sixty Five Paise Only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated in terms of said notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **Date: 20-01-2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 97,69,382.56 /- (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred and Eighty Two and Fifty Six Paise Only)** as on **19-01-2026** and further interest, incidental expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Name of Title Holder : Smt. Prema T M W/o Shivananjaiah B

Property 1 : All That Part And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 3, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi Housing Board, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West - 26.24 Feet. North To South - 49.20 Feet, Total Measuring - 1291 Square Feet. Bounded By: East -** LIG No. 21, 22 & 23, **West -** Road, **North -** MIG-I, B. No. 4, **South -** MIG-I, B. No. 2.

Property 2 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 4, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi KHB Colony, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West - 15 Meters, North To South - 8 Meters, Total Measuring - 120 Square Meters. Bounded By: East -** LIG-II D, House No. 23 & 24, **West -** Road, **North -** MIG-I, House No. B-5, **South -** MIG-I, House No. B-3.

Property 3 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 1219/825/82, Site No. 82 Situated At Yogeshwara Layout, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka -562109. **Measuring : East To West - 30 Feet, North To South - 40 Feet Total Measuring - 1200 Square Feet Bounded By: East -** Site No. 81, **West -** Site No. 83, **North -** Site No. 79, **South-** 25 Feet Road.

Name of Title Holder : Sri Shivananjaiah S/o Boraiah

Property 4 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 450/46, Former Survey No. 156/15, Situated At Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : 10 Guntas Bounded By: East -** Land Of Gomatappa, **West -** Land Of Kariyappa, **North -** Land Of Guddaiah **South -** Land Of Mylarappa.

Date : 20-01-2026
Place : Mysuru
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO: NIT/14/26/03, Dated : 23-JANUARY-2026.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Closing/ Opening Date	Qty.
1	02254106	Metalized Carbon Strip suitable for High reach Pantographs with ADD Provision	05.02.2026	348 Nos
2	03251985A	Kit for Locking Arrangement for centre pivot pin consisting of 3 items	19.02.2026	62392 Set
3	03251476A	Axle end steel high tensile cap screws [1 inch dia 8 UNC-2A, 2.25 inch thread length.	16.02.2026	123334 Nos
4	06265006	Design, Manufacture and Supply and Commissioning of Electric Overhead Travelling (EOT) Crane of Capacity 50 Ton	12.02.2026	2 Nos
5	05255188B	SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF IP BASED VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM	10.02.2026	526 Set
6	03252075A	AXLE BOX HOUSING FOR ICF COACHES	17.02.2026	245 Nos

Tender Closing Time : At 10:30 hrs.
Railway reserves the right to issue any corrigendum to the tenders. Corrigendum & Important Notice to vendors may be seen in the link www.ireps.gov.in.
AMM/IV, For Principal Chief Materials Manager
CPR/10/638 **S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur**
South East Central Railway @secrail

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]
By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)
No. 4, Residency Road, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru-560 025
DEMAND NOTICE
NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961.

RC/33/2022

CANARA BANK
Versus
MS PRESTIGE POULTRY FARM AND FEEDS

To
(CD 1) CANARA BANK
No:13/10,3 Cross Csi Compound I Floor, M Blk Unity Bldgs, J.C. Road Banglore-560002
CERTIFICATE HOLDERS
(CD 1) MS PRESTIGE POULTRY FARM AND FEEDS
Rep by its proprietor Sri. Vikar Khadeer Ahmed, S/o Basheer Ahmed @ Muneer Ahmed
Registered Office At: Ugala Nagepalli Mallasandra Village Kasaba Hobli Bagepalli Taluk Chikkaballapur-561297
CERTIFICATE DEBTORS

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in **OA/1309/2019** an amount of **Rs 17535182 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Thirty Five Thousands One Hundred Eighty Two Only)** along with pendentellite and future interest as applicables per RC w.e.f. **09/08/2019** and cost till realization has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.
3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.
4. you are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:
   (a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.
   (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings faken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: **04/04/2022**
Sd/-
SEAL
Recovery Officer
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2)

You are directed that the payment made, if any, by the Certificate Debtor(s) be credited to the consolidated account of all debts due in this case from the Certificate Debtor(s) and the Recovery Officer kept posted with the payment position regularly.
The consolidated account so maintained will be subject to the verification of the Recovery Officer. You are further directed to submit an up to date statement of the total claim in respect of the above matter and full details of property particulars wherefrom the recovery of the debt is to be made.

DEPARTMENT OF STAMPS AND REGISTRATION
Office of the Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps
Kandaya Bhavan, 8th Floor, K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009
Tel : 080-22220436, Email: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in

No. Comp/69/2025-26 Date: 21-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited by the Department of Stamps and Registration for **"Selection of an agency for Supply, Installation, Configuration and Maintenance of Hardware, Software and Network Equipment for Department of Stamps and Registration".** The tender forms, terms and conditions may be obtained through e-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The last date for submitting completed tender forms is **21-02-2026 till 5.00 pm.** For further details please contact **Assistant Inspector General of Registration (Computers) & Project Director Kaveri (e-mail: aigrcomp@karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/- Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/5172/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients are intended to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule below from **(1)Smt.Mangala Shashishekar,** W/o Late K.N.Shashishekar and **(2)Smt.Nagashree Konanur Shashishekar,** D/o Late K.N.Shashishekar (i.e., Owners for the sake of brevity) and the said Owners have represented that they are the only legal heirs of Late K.N.Shashishekar and have inherited the Immovable Property being Residential **Site No.338, PID No.3217150201**, formed by BDA, situated at 10th Block, further extension of Anjanapura Layout, Measuring East to West:9.00 Meters and North to South : 12.00 Meters, totally measuring : **108 Square Meters,** which more-fully described as the **SCHEDULE PROPERTY.** Further, the owners represented that they are well seized, possessed and is/are perfectly entitled to deal with the Schedule Property as ABSOLUTE OWNERS free from all claims, encumbrance/s and litigation/s etc.,

Any person / institution having any right, title, share, claim or interest of any nature in the Schedule Property or any objections of any manner whatsoever to the above sale transaction between my clients and the aforesaid owners, is/are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned and file written objections/claims along-with supporting documents within **07 (SEVEN) days** from the date of publication of this Notice at the address mentioned below. If no such claim/s is/are received, it would be deemed that the above-mentioned owners have a valid, clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property specified below and that others do not have any claim over the same and /or claims if any will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

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2	Deputy Registrar	06	Level 11
3	Principal Private Secretary	10	Level 11
4	Assistant registrar	01	Level 10
5	Court Officer	14	Level 08
6	Senior Private Secretary	16	Level 08
7	Private Secretary	23	Level 07
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A piece of board

India must eschew temptation to be a part of Trump's peace board

India, on Thursday, skipped the U.S. President Donald Trump-led "Board of Peace (BoP)" charter announcement held in Davos, although the government is said to be still discussing the invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join it. The BoP is part of the Trump administration's Phase 2 of the Gaza Peace Proposal, which is also meant to help resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict through talks on a two-state solution. This was cleared unanimously by the UN Security Council (Russia and China abstained) in November 2025 after an Israel-Hamas ceasefire. There are some reasons for India to seriously consider joining the BoP, as about 20 countries already have. India has been a principled supporter of the Palestinian cause, and a consistent provider of humanitarian assistance, and this could be an opportunity to help the brutalised Palestinian population. The decision by the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel and Türkiye, to join may put pressure on the Modi government. The rupture in U.S.-India ties and fragility of trade negotiations maybe another cause not to rebuff Mr. Trump's invitation now, as it may invoke his ire.

Neither pragmatism nor principle dictates taking such a decision in haste, however, and a country of India's standing cannot act based on the fear of missing out on a position of influence, or punishment by the U.S. Even though the UN has backed the U.S.'s original plans, the BoP's latest structure and mandate appear to have been unilaterally altered – it does not actually mention Gaza, according to leaked versions of the charter. Mr. Trump has appointed himself as chairman, with friends and family on the executive board, and the charter proposes to extend the BoP to other conflict-resolution ventures, suggesting that it would seek to supplant the UN. Second, while the board will appoint Palestinian technical experts, it does not include the Palestinian leadership, an affront to countries that have recognised Palestine. That Mr. Netanyahu, accused of genocide by UN agencies should be included, but not the Palestinian President, adds to that injustice. For India, Pakistan's decision to join the board is a red flag, particularly if Mr. Trump decides to include the Kashmir dispute to the BoP's peace plans. The BoP's 2-tier membership, offering "permanent" membership for a "fee" of one billion dollars is another red flag. It would also be difficult for India to cavil at its troops joining the International Stabilization Force, a non-UN initiative. Without clarity, members will only be rubber stamps to Mr. Trump's arbitrary and often illegitimate diktats on the future of Palestine. New Delhi must continue to consult partners on the best way forward, particularly the Palestinians, even as it keeps its own independent counsel. Above all, India must listen to its own conscience.

Welcome deescalation

Europe and rest of the world should still be wary of U.S. moves

In a move that brings a sense of relief to European nations and NATO members, U.S. President Donald Trump, in a speech at the World Economic Forum at Davos, appeared to back down from the possibility of the use of force to acquire Greenland, an autonomous Arctic territory administered by Denmark. Simultaneously, he hit out at world leaders, including from friendly countries such as Canada, France and Switzerland. His remarks came after weeks of rising tension over his earlier proposal to impose on eight European countries a 10% tariff on "any and all goods" beginning on February 1, which was then set to increase to 25% on June 1 until an agreement was reached for the U.S. to purchase or otherwise acquire Greenland. Given the broader context of the Trump administration using military force to kidnap Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro to the U.S. and it hinting publicly at similar interventions in the affairs of Colombia, Cuba, Iran and Mexico, European nations came close to retaliating with an anti-coercion instrument that is a counter-tariff facility targeting the business of major U.S. tech firms in the EU. After Mr. Trump's Davos comments, however, the focus has shifted to what he described as "the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region". Hinting that the time frame of such a deal would be "infinite", Mr. Trump also indicated that additional discussions on Greenland are ongoing, relating to the $175 billion Golden Dome missile defence plan, to position U.S. weapons in space.

Troubling though the strident rhetoric out of Washington was on the subject of taking over Greenland, the deeper institutional malaise that the conversations at Davos hinted at relate to the gradual breakdown of the rules-based international order. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney poignantly alluded to this dysfunction in global trading and financial systems and trends in migration and climate change mitigation policies. He said that great powers were now using economic integration as weapons, tariffs as leverage, financial infrastructure as coercion, and supply chains as vulnerabilities to be exploited. He warned a vast swathe of "middle powers" of the world that contend with the complexities of this rivalry: "There is a strong tendency for countries to go along to get along... To accommodate. To avoid trouble. To hope that compliance will buy safety. It won't." Indeed, countries such as India, which have lingering concerns in bilateral ties with the U.S. despite overall positive trends in cooperation, would do well to consider whether his words on prioritising rule of law over the use of brute force as a modus operandi on the global stage ring true at home.

A dangerous march towards a Himalayan ecocide

Mallika Bhanot

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In 2025, which saw nearly 331 days of near-continuous climate impacts, the human cost was staggering: over 4,000 deaths attributed to climate-induced disasters in 2025 alone, with Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand bearing the heaviest toll. Towns such as Dharali, Harsil, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Kullu, Mandi and Kishtwar were ravaged by sudden cloudbursts, landslides, and avalanches that morphed into deadly flash floods, obliterating lives and livelihoods.

This onslaught of scorching heat, catastrophic floods and land subsidence appears to be the new normal. And yet, how does one explain the government's decision to endanger Dharali and Harsil – areas recently devastated by an avalanche-turned-flash-flood – by pushing forward a massive infrastructure project that would fell nearly 7,000 Devdar trees and countless native species?

Pushing infrastructure in a disaster zone

On November 12, the Uttarakhand Forest Department approved the felling of these trees, diverting 43 hectares of forest land for the Char Dham road-widening project, with 10 hectares meant for muck dumping. This decision again relies on the flawed DL-PS (double-lane with paved shoulder) standard that mandates a 12-metre paved surface in an area demonstrably prone to disasters.

The region, located north of the Main Central Thrust (MCT), is classified as a critical zone where major infrastructure is explicitly discouraged. There are also hanging glaciers and the area is fed by the Gangotri, one of the world's fastest receding glaciers, which sustains several unstable, moraine-laden glaciers in the valley. One of these glacier avalanches contributed to the disaster in Dharali.

This raises a pivotal and urgent question: what is the true value of these trees for this region?

The Devdar (Deodar) forests are crucial ecological assets in the delicate Himalayan landscape. Their extensive root systems stabilise slopes, prevent landslides and serve as natural barriers against avalanches and glacial debris flows, safeguarding downstream communities. These forests are also essential for the water quality of the Ganga. This is important as they are situated within the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, a nearly 4,000-square-kilometre buffer that was established in 2012 to protect the river's last pristine stretch.

The unique antimicrobial qualities of Devdar trees (from terpenoids, essential oils, and phenolic compounds found in the wood, bark and resin) fundamentally influence river ecology. As leaf litter and organic material enter mountain streams, they inhibit harmful bacteria while promoting the development of beneficial microbial communities, resulting in a naturally regulated, biologically active river system, especially in the upper reaches where industrial pollution remains limited.

These forests also maintain cooler microclimates, regulate water temperature in snowmelt-fed streams, and help sustain dissolved oxygen levels essential for aquatic life.

In the ecologically vulnerable Himalayas, disaster resilience must take precedence over disaster-prone projects and infrastructure

Deforestation would trigger warmer air and water, reduced oxygen, diminished bacteriophage activity, and an irreversible shift in the river's ecological character. This is why the Supreme Court, in its judgment, discouraged the felling of precious deodar trees in the area.

However, recent proposals by forest departments suggest "translocating" these ancient trees – an ecologically flawed notion. Uprooting centuries-old Devdars is tantamount to cutting them down. Their complex, site-specific ecological functions cannot be replicated elsewhere, and no suitable alternative terrain exists. Their preservation is not a matter of convenience but of environmental necessity.

A project built on falsehoods

The Char Dham Road Widening Project has been built on falsehoods. Its execution is a case study in how not to build in the Himalayas. This is evident in the bypassing of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment, through project fragmentation, the adoption of an incorrect road-width standard contrary to its own mandate, the destabilising practice of vertical hill-cutting on fragile slopes, and the indiscriminate dumping of muck in vital water sources.

These are the consequences – along the nearly 700 kilometres of widened road, over 800 active landslide zones have emerged. Key border routes have been closed for extended periods, and the government's touted "all-weather road" is now derisively called an "all-*paidal* (all-pedal") road by locals.

To prevent such damage, the government needed only to regulate road width and prioritise stability over excessive widening, as warned by experts. Yet the Union Minister's recently proposed remedy, which is belated and inadequate – to retrofit slopes with Swiss fibreglass bolts and wire mesh – comes eight years after large-scale destabilisation.

The fundamental failure lies not in the absence of reinforcement, but in the original engineering decision to execute excessively steep hill cuts. Cutting slopes at angles that violate the natural "angle of repose" of Himalayan geology is a profound act of either ignorance or hubris. No amount of anchoring later can rectify this intrinsic flaw that was engineered into the landscape from the outset.

The Union Government's current developmental initiatives directly contradict a key policy framework: the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE). Approved in 2014 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, the NMSHE was established to protect the fragile Himalayan ecology. Its mandate includes monitoring glaciers and biodiversity, mitigating natural hazards and securing sustainable livelihoods for Himalayan communities. It was designed to build scientific capacity and guide policymakers toward genuinely sustainable development.

The government, therefore, owes the nation a clear explanation on why its actions violate its own flagship environmental policy. When *Devbhoomi* (the land of the gods) is turned against the *Devdaaru*, which are believed to be abodes of the deities, this is not development. It is a profound betrayal of traditional culture, ecology and scientific reason. Better sense must prevail, and those who enable these prejudiced, mindless, and disaster-prone projects must be held accountable.

The vulnerability of the Himalayan – one of the world's most climate-sensitive landscapes – is escalating. The current snowless winters and raging forest fires in this area resonate with the conclusion of a recent study, revealing that high-altitude areas have been warming 50% faster than the global average since 1950. This accelerated warming means extreme weather events such as the Dharali disaster will become increasingly frequent and severe.

If border security, connectivity and national interest are our true objectives, then disaster resilience must take precedence over disaster-prone infrastructure. This is not a matter of ideology; it is a scientific, ecological, and economic necessity.

The primary catalyst for disasters is unsafe land use: cutting into unstable slopes for wide highways, drilling massive tunnels without adequate geological surveys, and constructing large-scale hydropower projects. These activities have been repeatedly flagged by the National Green Tribunal and other bodies. Crucially, the clearance of deodar forests removes the natural anchors that bind fragile soils, directly accelerating erosion and amplifying the risk of landslides and floods.

While this development provides the fuse, climate change acts as a powerful "risk multiplier." It intensifies the threat by creating erratic rainfall patterns, supercharging weather events and accelerating glacial melt. This leads to a dangerous "water peak phase" of increased run-off and catastrophic flash floods, which, once the glaciers have fully retreated, inevitably gives way to a prolonged phase of water scarcity and drought.

These physical pressures are compounded by unsustainable human behaviours, including unregulated tourism, unchecked vehicular traffic in fragile zones, and the absence of carrying capacity assessments or functional solid waste management plans. These symptoms point to deeper, systemic governance failures: a persistent prioritisation of short-term, economic gains over long-term disaster resilience, and a chronic inability to plan and implement genuine, science-based sustainable development policies.

The subcontinent's foundation

This ground reality solidifies the axiom that "without the Himalayas, there is no India." The range is more than just a geographical entity; it is the very foundation of the subcontinent's existence. The Himalayas have shaped India into a fertile and habitable land, while also forging a syncretic cultural identity as enduring and majestic as the mountains themselves. The continuing sequence of disasters in the Himalayas is a non-negotiable lesson in earth system science and a loud reminder that India exists because of the Himalaya.

BRICS India summit needs a green and resilient agenda

Manjeev Singh Puri

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is Senior Fellow, TERI, and Curator, World Sustainable Development Summit

The next BRICS Summit will be held in India this year. Having hosted the G-20 (2023), infrastructure and organisational processes are in place, but India must quickly hone in on the Summit's focus. This should obviously resonate with India and BRICS, but critically be an issue that is of vital importance for the Global South.

Given its vastly increased vulnerabilities to climate change, resilience is a top priority for the South, and also underscores India's and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global leadership on an inclusive green agenda.

Need for a stabilising force

In the Trump polar world, collaborative multilateralism is under immense stress, with climate change being particularly singled out by the United States and being called a hoax along with a visible push for more fossil fuel use. The Donald Trump administration has said that it will withdraw the U.S. from 66 international organisations, which includes the India-helmed International Solar Alliance. In fact, the U.S. stayed away from the COP30 in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025 – something that possibly ensured a continuation of the COP process. With the Europeans, who for long positioned themselves as climate champions, facing domestic climate fatigue and external national security priorities, there is a certain space for a stabilising force for collaborative action on sustainability and resilience. BRICS can endeavour towards this.

The acronym, BRICS, however, raises the hackles of President Trump who thinks that it is anti-American and an attempt to dislodge the dollar. Given the vast gamut of India-U.S. ties, including the imperative of an acceptable trade deal, staying clear of massive tariffs relating to Russian oil imports and ensuring a certain presidential happiness in Washington DC will certainly need a certain adroitness on the part of India at the BRICS Summit. Such diplomatic capacity was on display during the G-20 Summit in Delhi that saw a successful balancing of global geopolitics with Indian interests, including protecting its strategic autonomy through multi-alignment and leadership of the Global South.

It is a critical imperative for the Global South and under an expanded BRICS

Climate change is a common concern

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the old grouping of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) has been useful and will continue to have its role but a larger grouping of major developing country players may add greater heft. This was seen in Belém to ensure that the handling of fossil fuels did not stymie development imperatives of developing countries. Climate impacts, while varying in form and intensity, are a common concern across BRICS, ranging from risks to infrastructure, health, livelihoods and ecosystems arising from permafrost thaw, pressures on the Amazon and the Himalayas, and growing vulnerabilities in coastal and riverine regions. It is in their own interest to collectively advance a stronger international agenda on adaptation, resilience, equity and sustainable development.

This role is further reinforced by several BRICS members having shouldered responsibility for steering the global climate process after the Paris Agreement came into force. Brazil, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have presided over climate conferences in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period, helping safeguard momentum on climate action. A BRICS act would also be useful on a unilateral side-stepping of UNFCCC principles such as the European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. An opening of a broader climate debate, including trade, was initiated at Belém.

A major outcome of the July 2025 BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro was BRICS Leaders' Framework Declaration on Climate Finance, a matter where India has been strong in articulating the demands of the Global South.

With finance being the key enabler for climate action, there is a need to include the World Bank and International Monetary Fund chiefs in the BRICS Summit. It is not the time not to treat them as "theirs (G-7 or G-20's)" and not just confine BRICS to the New Development Bank. Any global push on climate finance without them is hardly possible, given the U.S.'s antipathy to climate change – a fact also reflected in how their corporates and private monies are reacting, including pulling back from Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG(requirements and even 'green' bonds and other funds.

BRICS is now about Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, and the UAE, together comprising half of the global population, around 40% of global GDP, and around 26% of global trade. Its voice and heft are considerable.

A chance for Indian to drive change

As the helmsman of BRICS this year, India is in a pivotal position to push for collaborative global action, at least as among much of the world that will join, on resilience and an inclusive green agenda. This will be in its interest as well as a critical imperative for the Global South.

Moreover, geopolitically for India, a BRICS push keeps Chinese ambitions on global leadership on a green agenda in check. India's green agenda focusing on resilience at the BRICS Summit 2026 would also resonate with Ethiopia, the host of COP32 in 2027.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The signal from Greenland

The recent discussions surrounding a prospective "Greenland deal" have raised important questions about sovereignty, international law, and responsible global diplomacy. While strategic cooperation in the Arctic is understandable, given emerging security and climate challenges, any discourse that appears to treat Greenland as a negotiable asset risks undermining the foundational principles of territorial integrity. The Greenland debate serves as a reminder that global leadership must be exercised through lawful diplomacy and mutual respect.

C.R. Rajesh,
Bengaluru

Spotlight on the Governor

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's 'walk out' from the State Assembly is yet another case of his acrimony toward the Tamil Nadu government.

Also, issuing a mere press release from the Lok Bhavan cannot be a proven document to justify his claims of his charges against the government, warranting his walk-out. Mr. Ravi's actions show a growing pattern under the current BJP-led government that uses the office of the Governor in the non-ruling BJP States as an instrument of interference.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Does Trump's Greenland plan signal the end of NATO?

C. Raja Mohan

Journalist, academic, and foreign policy analyst

T.G. Suresh

Associate Professor, Centre of Political Studies, JNU

PARLEY

Days after the U.S.'s military strike on Venezuela and its capture of sitting President Nicolas Maduro, U.S. President Donald Trump intensified his push for Greenland, calling it an "absolute necessity" for U.S. national security. On January 17, he said he would impose a 10% tariff on eight European countries opposing the U.S.'s stance; he has since cancelled it. Mr. Trump's proposal reflects imperial undertones and tests the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s Article 5 pledge (an armed attack against one NATO member shall be considered an attack against them all). Does Mr. Trump's Greenland plan signal the end of NATO? C. Raja Mohan and T.G. Suresh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Smriti Sudesh**. Edited excerpts:

Mr. Trump wants to acquire Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, which is a NATO member. How do we square this with NATO's foundational pledge?

C. Raja Mohan: I don't think Mr. Trump has time for niceties – that there is a 77-year-old alliance with a shared commitment. For him, this is the new unilateralism of the U.S. There is no real respect for international law. He is a president who is unconstrained at home and feels he can do whatever he likes abroad as well. And since the rest of the world depends on the U.S. for so much, barring China, no other major power has challenged his policies. There is some gap between his demand for Greenland and Denmark's rejection of the demand. In between these extremes, there are ways in which he could get his way and declare a victory, while also saving face for Denmark in some form.

Why does he want Greenland?

T.G. Suresh: Besides Mr. Trump's well-stated objective that Greenland is an absolute necessity for American security, other factors are often cited, including control over shipping routes and access to minerals in Greenland. The first is the Northern Sea Route, which connects the Atlantic and the Pacific via the Russian-Norwegian frontiers and runs along the Siberian coastline. The second is the Northwest Passage, a long-envisioned sea route running from the Atlantic through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. If influencing shipping routes is the real concern, the question is, why does the U.S. need Greenland at all, since the Northwest Passage runs through Canadian waters and ultimately connects to the Chukchi Sea?

There is already a well-developed political and institutional arrangement governing the Arctic geography. It is therefore not clear why Mr. Trump is focusing specifically on Greenland.

The bedrock of NATO is the U.S.'s security guarantees. If the U.S. itself threatens to violate NATO's sovereignty, what message does it send to smaller NATO members which are suspicious of Russia's actions?

Sunset at Nuuk, Greenland. AFP

CRM: It sends a troubling message to most members of NATO. This is because they have long lived under the assumption that, whatever happens, the U.S. will remain their most reliable security partner. Despite all the problems over the last eight years, NATO has held together, largely because of the U.S.'s political commitment to European security.

However, over the last decade, especially during Mr. Trump's first term, this assumption has been questioned. He has openly challenged the relevance of NATO, arguing that the alliance is "ripping off" the U.S. and that European allies are a burden on American security. Still, during his first term, his administration was broader-based, and the traditional foreign policy establishment continued to shape policy.

This time, that constraint no longer exists. The rise of the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement reflects a world view that sees alliances as largely useless and believes that the U.S. should look after itself. This camp also questions the long-held assumption that the U.S. must act as the gendarme of the global order, or that American leadership is essential for maintaining global security.

That also leads to the conclusion that the U.S.'s interests lie primarily in the western hemisphere, and that Washington must therefore focus on securing its own immediate strategic space. From Mr. Trump's perspective, gaining control over Greenland appears to be part of a broader effort to assert dominance over that hemisphere. But his position goes even further. He is not merely seeking influence or a security role; he wants sovereign control over Greenland. This is a wake-up call for Europeans.

At the same time, Mr. Trump has shown a willingness to negotiate directly with Russia on the Ukraine war, often without European leaders at the table. For him and his political base, the idea that NATO is a sacred obligation that the U.S. must bear no longer holds. The challenge for Europe, then, is on finding ways of coming to terms with this new reality.

> The U.S. is needed not only because of its military capabilities, but also because Europe has had the luxury of neglecting its own defence for decades. Also, without the U.S., the divisions in Europe will sharpen further.
> C. RAJA MOHAN

With the U.S., Russia, and China all increasing their footprint, how do you view the Arctic's rising prominence?

TGS: Across the world, major powers are competing to secure access to resources because prevailing development models have become increasingly energy-intensive. The Arctic has therefore emerged as a region of growing interest not only for Arctic states, but also non-Arctic ones. Activity is increasing around both shipping routes and energy and resource extraction. Ideally, global discussions on the Arctic should focus on melting ice and environmental consequences. Instead, we are seeing intense competition among major powers to influence or gain access to the region. This raises an important question: what has the U.S. actually done in this regard? Russia has invested in Arctic development for centuries, building extensive port infrastructure along the Arctic coastline and maintaining a large fleet of icebreakers, many of them nuclear-powered. But neither the White House nor major American firms, particularly energy companies, appear willing to make long-term fixed investments. This is why I do not foresee a major disruption of existing Arctic arrangements, which are largely led by Russia in partnership with Denmark, Canada, and other Arctic states.

Russia is watching Mr. Trump's Greenland ambitions closely. While a U.S. move that weakens NATO would suit Moscow, stronger American presence in the Arctic would mean long-term strategic competition. How do you assess this Russian dilemma?

CRM: Russian is a major power in many ways. It is arguably the most important power in the Arctic Sea. What happens to Russia's position will depend to a great extent on the nature of the relationship between Russia and the U.S. In fact, in the conversations on Ukraine peace between the U.S. and Russia, one of the key points under discussion has been collaboration in the Arctic. Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that he wants a decent relationship with Russia and that both countries can jointly exploit natural resources. Much therefore depends on whether Russia and the U.S. can reach a deal on Ukraine and move towards a different kind of relationship. If that happens, they could work together in the Arctic. But if they do not, and Mr. Trump gains control over Greenland, the contest between the two is likely to be quite vigorous.

From oil in Venezuela to rare earths in Greenland, is the U.S. turning to force and coercion as a tool for resource extraction?

TGS: Mr. Trump shows a preference for an economical approach to solving problems. Even when he talks about places like Venezuela, there is a visible aversion to putting boots on the ground or taking risks that come with major, disruptive interventions. Two things stand out clearly. First, his personal approach: he wants quick outcomes, what he calls a "deal", achieved in an economical time frame. Second, even if the U.S. were to attempt to control or establish sovereign ownership over Greenland, it would be extremely difficult. History shows that in regions stretching from the North Atlantic to the coldest parts of the Arctic, it is very hard to override the will of the people. Mr. Trump's economical, deal-oriented approach is likely to remain the final determining factor.

As Europe boosts defence spending amid the Ukraine war and its ongoing reliance on the U.S., Mr. Trump appears to be distancing America from NATO. How do you assess this?

CRM: This is like a situation where your protector becomes your tormentor. Mr. Trump's threat of leaving NATO and its potential consequences have made Europe nervous. Faced with what Europe sees as grave existential risks, it is willing to please and accommodate Mr. Trump. This also explains Europe's approach to the Greenland issue: most of its leaders would prefer to persuade Denmark to find a way that allows Mr. Trump to gain control over Greenland, while at the same time urging the U.S. to leave Denmark a fig leaf – something that avoids an outcome that appears overtly humiliating.

Can NATO survive Mr. Trump's second term?

CRM: No. That is precisely why European leaders want to keep the Americans in. The U.S. is needed not only because of its military capabilities, but also because Europe has had the luxury of neglecting its own defence for decades. Even if European governments now follow through on their promises to spend massively on defence, it will take time. Also, Europe's history shows that it is internally divided. Without the U.S., there is a real danger that these divisions will sharpen further.

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NOTEBOOK

The mystery of Court 10

Court 10 in the Supreme Court is a pause — an oasis of silence which has nothing to offer to the scribe, and easily overlooked

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Deep in the recesses of the Supreme Court is Court 10. Unlike its sibling courtrooms, which are overflowing beehives of disputes settled, won, lost, or adjourned, Court 10 is empty and closed. It has not witnessed objects being flung at the Bench or people nodding off to scholarly arguments from the Bar. If Court 10 could speak, it may have quoted Pierre-Albert Birot's 'The world pulse beats beyond my door'.

As court reporters, our first task of the day – or the previous night, if one is conscientious – is to check the causelist or the list of cases for the day. There are long rows of cases to watch and mark – some of them high-stakes. But they are all listed before the Benches of the other 16 courts; Court 10 is a white space on the computer screen. For a reporter struggling to make decisions about which cases to sit through and cover, Court 10 provides a much-needed break in the flow.

I have made some attempts to solve the closed-door mystery of Court 10, but only managed to draw hems and haws. A few looked at me blank-faced. Some gave me quizzical smiles. A few even turned combative: "Don't you have anything better to do today?" One of them dithered: "Never thought about it. Have to find out. Let you know". And off they all went, with not a moment to spare.

A kind soul invited me to come look inside Court 10. But I didn't make the appointment, having convinced myself that I was far too busy for trifles.

A 'highly-placed source', as they are often called in reporting terms, said a pillar stands awkwardly inside the court room, making it difficult to function there.

Google, my next best source, informed me that Kerala High Court had "renamed" one of its court rooms 12A. Then, Google did a Shashi Tharoor on me, informing me that the fear of number 13 is called 'triskaidekaphobia'.

Technology has changed our practice of court reporting. Hearings can be watched in isolation, in the comfort of personal spaces. Gone are the days when reporters would dash from one court room to another to catch the important bits of a hearing. I have outrun stalwarts in crowded court corridors, only to realise, once inside a courtroom, that the 'important case' was happening next door.

I would have probably cracked the Court 10 mystery in those days, pacing up and down before its closed doors. I might have played Sherlock, hunting for clues on my knees; or a Scout sneaking along the shuttered Radley home in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Even Mr. Satterthwaite's method in Agatha Christie's *The Man from the Sea* could have worked – opening the door, only to find a beautiful, sad woman dreamily gazing at the deep blue. But none of that is possible. For one, there are no windows in Court 10, shuttered or otherwise.

The Supreme Court generates news in rapid succession. Amid the frenzy, Court 10 is a pause – an oasis of silence which has nothing to offer to the scribe, and easily overlooked. There are other such spaces too. The right wing of the court has a broad balcony lined with neo-classical pillars overlooking a lawn. It is bordered with beds of flowers. Here, a lawyer can be seen munching a sandwich or a court staffer can be seen taking an afternoon stroll. Court reporters are now distanced from this balcony because of video conferencing.

Postscript: Yesterday's causelist showed that Justice Vipul M. Pancholi would preside in Court 10. "Great," I said to myself. "Just when I thought I had something. The Supreme Court has a way of doing this to you." Later in the day, I logged into the Court's display board and looked at Court 10. I was not surprised. It read: 'Not in session'.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Taking the lead

Children who are part of road safety patrol take part in a Republic Day parade rehearsal at the Shivaji Park ground in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1976

Centre studying take-over of foreign drug firms

New Delhi, Jan. 22: Take-over of multinational companies producing pharmaceuticals as recommended by the Hathi Commission report is "under the consideration of the Government", the Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers, Mr. P.C. Sethi, told the Lok Sabha to-day. The question, he said, was a "complex" one. Mr. Sethi was replying to a discussion on the report raised by CPI members Ramavtar Shastri and Mr. Hiren Mukherjee.

A powerful plea for early implementation of the Hathi Commission report was made by several members.

Initiating the discussion on the report Mr. Ramavatar Shastri criticised the activities of multi-nationals in the industry and called for their takeover.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 23, 1926

Yet another "cure"

In "The Daily Herald" received by this mail we read: Dr. Smallpage, a young Sydney practitioner, claims to have found an effective serum for the cure of consumption.

He has offered to hand over to the Australian people the formula for the preparation of the serum and to instruct medical men in its use for the treatment of poor people free of charge.

From Page One

Tension rises after Meitei man's killing

"The killing has taken place at a time when civil society groups and various sections of the public are making continuous efforts to restore peace and normal life in Manipur," COCOMI convenor Y.K. Dhiren said. "It is deplorable that the presence of more than 60,000 security personnel in Manipur to deal with the unrest has not helped stop the activities of armed militants," he said.

Earlier, Singh's body was recovered and sent for post-mortem. His wife has told the police that four men came in a black SUV looking for her husband. "All of them were masked. While two stayed in the car, the other two entered the house. One of them was carrying a weapon," the official said, adding the victim's wife was not able to recognise them yet.

She told the police that no one except the village chief knew about the arrival of her husband.

Karnataka Governor cuts short speech

Mr. Gehlot's walkout comes just two days after similar actions by Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi and Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar.

It is understood that Mr. Gehlot declined to read the full address as it contained 10 paragraphs critical of the Narendra Modi-led government, accusing the Centre of "injustice" to Karnataka in tax devolution and Centrally sponsored schemes.

The speech sought repeal of the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission-Gramin Act and restoration of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Targeting the BJP, Congress general secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal said governors were "Super CMs" who act illegitimately after getting "blessings from the top". "PM Modi fancies himself as the Viceroy of India - who uses governors to remote control state governments from Delhi. Much to his disappointment, there is the Constitution of India under which elected State governments run as per the will of the people," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Is SIR about illegal immigration, asks SC

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, earlier argued that the poll body was authorised to verify citizenship under Article 324 of the Constitution. Article 326 made citizenship mandatory for a person to vote. He referred to the amendments made in the Citizenship Act in 2003, which made conditions for citizenship more stringent, requiring both parents of electors to be Indian citizens. The concept of 'illegal immigrant' was introduced in the 2003 amendment. He agreed that the reason of "illegal migration" could have been expressed "more clearly, more happily".

Justice Bagchi said by 'migration' in the SIR notification, the poll body seemed to have been referring more to inter-State migration and not cross-border illegal movement.

Mr. Dwivedi responded that the term 'migration' would subsume both inter-State and trans-border movement. "We could have said 'inter-State migration', 'intra-State migration', 'cross-border migration' or use the one expression 'migration' to mean it all," he said.

The judge, however, said there was a clear distinction between migration and illegal immigration.

"Migration, when it is inter-State, is always lawful. The word 'migration' means 'lawful migration'. When you talk of inter-country migrations, it may amount to illegal immigration. In India, citizens are entitled to move to any part of the country. It is a fundamental freedom. The aspect of illegality comes only in the case of immigration. Your SIR order does not eloquently state that your SIR is also about illegal immigration... When it is migration simpliciter, we will interpret it as inter-State migration," Justice Bagchi observed.

The Bench asked "what was really in the mind" of the poll panel when it started the SIR exercise.

India absent as Trump rolls out Board of Peace

The U.S. President's attempt to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

The countries that have accepted Mr. Trump's invitation to join the board are Argentina, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Morocco, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

Mr. Trump has spoken about the board replacing some UN functions and perhaps even making that entire body obsolete one day. But he was more conciliatory in his remarks on the sidelines of the forum in the Swiss alps. "We'll do it in conjunction with the United Nations," Mr. Trump said, even as he denigrated the UN for doing what he said wasn't enough to calm some conflicts around the globe.

10 soldiers killed, 11 injured as Army vehicle falls into gorge

The bulletproof truck plunged into a 200-ft-deep gorge at Khanni top in Doda district of J&K; Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Minister express grief, wish speedy recovery to those injured

Press Trust of India
BHADERWAH/JAMMU

People carry the injured to a helicopter for treatment at Udhampur, after an Army vehicle met with an accident in the Khani Top area of Bhaderwah in Doda on Thursday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

An Army truck skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, killing 10 soldiers and injuring 11, officials said.

The accident took place at the 9,000-foot-high Khanni top along the Bhaderwah-Chamba inter-State road around noon when the driver of the bulletproof Army vehicle, Casspir, heading towards a high-altitude post lost control and the vehicle plunged into a 200-ft-deep gorge.

A joint rescue operation by the Army and the police was immediately launched and four of the soldiers were found dead on the spot. Others were rescued in an injured condition, the officials said.

The Army vehicle was badly mangled. Later, six more soldiers died from injuries.

One of the injured is under observation in Bhaderwah sub-district hospital while 10 soldiers were airlifted to Udhampur command hospital for specialised treatment.

"We have lost 10 soldiers with 11 others injured in the unfortunate accident involving an Army vehicle," Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bhaderwah, Sumit Kumar Bhutyal said.

Condolences

Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed grief over the accident. The Chief Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and wished a speedy recovery to those injured. Mr. Abdullah also lauded the swift rescue and evacuation efforts.

Mr. Sinha, in a post on X, said he was "deeply saddened at the loss of lives of 10 of our brave Indian Army soldiers in an unfortunate road accident in Doda. We will always remember the outstanding service and supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers." He expressed his deepest condolences to the grieving families.

"In this moment of profound sorrow, the entire nation stands united with the bereaved families in solidarity and support. 10 injured soldiers have been airlifted to the hospital," the L-G said, adding he had directed the senior officials to ensure the best possible treatment.

"Praying for their speedy recovery," he further said.

Top Maoist leader among 15 members killed in Jharkhand

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Central Committee Member Anal alias Toofan Da carried a bounty of ₹2.17 crore on his head

Anal, alias Patriam Manjhi, alias Toofan Da, senior leader and central committee member of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), was among the 15 Maoists killed during a special operation in the Saranda forest area of West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand on Thursday.

The operation named "Medhaburu" is being jointly conducted by security forces by deploying 209 COBRA, Jharkhand Jaguar, Central Reserve Police Force, and district police personnel in multiple encounters with the armed squad of Maoist leaders.

During a media interaction in Ranchi, Inspector-General (Operations) Michaelraj S. said around 6.30 a.m., the Maoists fired indiscriminately at the police and the security forces retaliated in self-defence.

Following the encounter, 15 bodies and a large quantity of weapons have been recovered.

"Preliminary investigations have identified 11 of the 15 deceased Maoists, including Anal who was not only carrying a reward of ₹1 crore in Jharkhand but ₹1.2 crore in Odisha and ₹15 lakh by the National Investigation Agency. There were a total of 149 cases lodged against him in Giridih district of Jharkhand," Mr. Michaelraj said.

He said that since 2022, Anal had been responsible for violent acts carried out by Maoists in the Saranda forest area of Kolhan.

Reacting to the operation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah wrote on X, "The ongoing joint operation by CRPF and Jharkhand Police has achieved a major success in the campaign to make the region free of Naxals through encounters, with the neutralization of the notorious wanted Maoist CCM 'Anal alias Patiram Manjhi' worth ₹1 crore." He further said, "We are committed to eradicate Naxalism, which has been synonymous with fear and terror for decades, before March 31, 2026."

SC records M.P. govt.'s assurance of peaceful worship at disputed site

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Devotees make preparations for puja at the disputed Bhojshala complex on the eve of Basant Panchami in Dhar on Thursday. PTI

The Supreme Court on Thursday recorded an assurance given by Madhya Pradesh that arrangements would be made at the Bhojshala Saraswati temple-cum-Maulana Kamal Maula mosque in Dhar district for the harmonious conduct of worship by both Muslims, who come to perform *namaaz*, and Hindus, who want to offer prayers on the occasion of Basant Panchami on Friday.

"We appeal to all stakeholders, including the members of both communities, to observe mutual respect and tolerance and cooperate with the State and district Administration in maintaining law and order," a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant observed.

The site has become a contentious focal point after the State High Court had issued interim directions for a scientific examination of the Bhojshala Saraswati Temple-cum-Maulana Kamal Maula mosque.

Appearing for Madhya Pradesh, Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj suggested that exclusive and separate space would be made to the members of the Muslim community on January 23 to offer *namaaz* between 1 and 3 p.m. within the compound itself. Similarly, a separate space would be made available to the Hindu community to hold the traditional ceremonies on the occasion of Basant Panchami.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for the petitioner side, accepted Mr. Nataraj's proposal and agreed to provide to the Dhar District Magistrate the approximate number of persons belonging to Muslim community who would come for *namaaz* on January 23 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Odisha police detain nine over attack on pastor in Dhenkanal

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Delay in registering FIR and investigation reflects government's patronage of hate, says Congress

The Odisha police detained nine persons in connection with the alleged assault on a pastor in Dhenkanal district on Wednesday.

The attack, which occurred in the first week of January, was taken up for investigation after the victim's wife lodged a complaint with the Dhenkanal Superintendent of Police (SP), citing inaction at the local level. The pastor has been identified as Bipin Bihari Naik. "We have detained nine persons in connection with the attack on pastor. The probe is on," Abhinav Sonkar, Dhenkanal SP, said.

Mr. Sonkar, however, said the primary investigation revealed that the pastor was not made to consume cow dung or drain water, as reported by a section of the media. "We have also received doctors' report that no grievous injury has been caused to pastor," he said. The miscreants allegedly paraded the pastor after garlanding him with slippers in front of the public before handing him over to Parjang police. Local residents said that he was involved in religious conversion.

"The brutal attack on Pastor Bipin Bihari Naik in Odisha's Parjang, forcing him to eat cow dung and chant slogans is a shameful assault on our Constitution and freedom of religion. Delay in registering FIR and investigation reflects BJP government's silence and patronage of hate. Such attacks poison India's plural fabric," Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Bhatka Charan Das said.

Interfaith couple hacked to death in Moradabad

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

A 27-year-old Muslim man and his 22-year-old Hindu girlfriend were hacked to death, allegedly by the woman's brothers, in Moradabad district of Uttar Pradesh, the police said on Thursday.

The deceased, Arman and Kajal, residents of Umri Sabzipur village, were in a relationship. Kajal's brothers were opposed to the relationship and had asked her to end it. Three days ago, both of them went missing.

Arman's father filed a missing person complaint. When the probe began, the police found that Kajal was also missing. During questioning, Kajal's brothers confessed to killing the couple. The accused then led the police to the spot where the bodies had been buried, and revealed that they had tied up the couple's hands and legs before hacking them to death.

Court acquits Sajjan Kumar in Janakpuri violence case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing absence of credible evidence against him, a Delhi court on Thursday acquitted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to violence in Janakpuri area during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots that broke in several parts of the country following the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Special Judge Dig Vinay Singh of Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Mr. Kumar stating that the prosecution has not met its burden of proof against the accused beyond a reasonable doubt, which is essential for conviction in a criminal trial.

Questionnaire for first phase of Census notified

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Census officials conducting pre-test exercise for the Population Census 2027 in Uttar Pradesh in November 2025. R. V. MOORTHY

The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI) on Thursday notified 33 questions that residents will have to answer in the first phase of Census 2027, which will be conducted between April 1 and September 30.

While the notification published on January 7, 2020 for Census 2021, which was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and never took off, had 31 questions, the current notification has 33. The fresh notification splits the combined question on the type of floor, wall and roof of the Census house into three distinct questions regarding the "predominant material used in the floor, wall and roof" of the house.

According to the government, this will be the first digital Census, the first to count caste and also the first where respondents will be able to self-enumerate through a yet-to-be announced portal.

Population Enumeration (PE), the second phase of Census 2027 where caste will be enumerated, will be done in February 2027. Questions are yet to be notified for this phase.

The notification by RG&CCI Mritunjay Kumar Narayan in the official Gazette said, "....that all the Census Officers may, within the limits of the local areas for which they have been respectively appointed, ask all such questions from all persons on the items enumerated below for collecting information through the houselisting and housing census schedule in connection with the Census of India 2027."

The questions are: building number (municipal or local authority or Census number); Census house number; predominant material of floor of the Census house; predominant material of wall of the Census house; predominant material of roof of the Census house; use of Census house; condition of the Census house; household number; total number of persons normally residing in the household; name of the head of the household; sex of the head of the household; whether the head of the household belongs to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe/Other; ownership status; number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household; number of married couple(s) living in the household; main source of drinking water; availability of drinking water source; main source of lighting; access to latrine; type of latrine; waste water outlet; availability of bathing facility; availability of kitchen and LPG/PNG connection; main fuel used for cooking; radio/transistor; television; access to Internet; laptop/computer; telephone/mobile phone/smartphone; bicycle/scooter/motorcycle/moped; car/jeep/van; main cereal consumed in the household; and mobile number (for Census-related communications only).

The pre-test or the preparatory exercise for the first phase of Census was held from November 10-30, 2025 in select areas across the country.

Don't speak publicly on party internal matters: Cong. to Punjab unit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress high command on Thursday warned its Punjab leaders against making public statements about the party's internal matters, and resorting to factionalism.

Party general secretary in charge of organisation K.C. Venugopal said these directions had been issued after three-hour meetings of Punjab leaders with the party's top brass, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Rahul Gandhi.

"The party has given clear directions to all leaders to refrain from making public statements," Mr. Venugopal said. "Every individual has their own views, but these should be discussed only with the party leadership or on party forums. Going to the media and spreading issues on social media – such activities will not be tolerated by the party."

The announcement comes barely days after the Scheduled Caste leader and former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi made a public statement that the party's top posts in the State, including that of the Pradesh Congress Committee chief and the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, were being occupied by forward caste leaders.

Mr. Venugopal said that the party's top brass had ascertained the views of every leader on the party's performance in Punjab.

On leadership change

"There is no question of any leadership change in Punjab," Mr. Venugopal said, while replying to a question.

Responding to a question on reports that around 30 leaders from Punjab had sought an appointment with the party high command, the Congress leader said there was nothing wrong with leaders meeting the party leadership in their individual capacities.

However, "groupism would not be tolerated at any cost", he said.

U.P. voters on draft SIR list may get to skip hearings

Voters can upload their documents on EC's website and send a representative with authorisation letter, which can include local booth-level agents; sources say an order might be issued this week

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Voters in Uttar Pradesh whose names have appeared on the draft list following the special intensive revision (SIR) in the State, but have been issued notices to attend hearings might now have the option of skipping them and instead send their representatives, which can also include local booth-level agents appointed by parties.

A directive to this effect might be issued as soon as this week, sources in the State's Chief Electoral Office told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

The voters would have the option of uploading their documents on the EC's website and then send their representative with an authorisation letter for the hearing at the electoral registration officer (ERO) or assistant electoral registration officer (AERO) offices as required. "This has been done for convenience of voters as many would find it difficult to be present for hearings at short notices," a source said.

Big relief: People searching for their names on the draft voter list after the SIR of electoral rolls in Uttar Pradesh. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The representatives sent by the voters can include their family members as well as the BLAs of any political party active in that particular area, they said.

The decision might be a corollary to similar directives given by the Supreme Court for West Bengal earlier this week.

Around 3.26 crore voters, out of the 12.55 crore electors, whose names have appeared in the post-SIR draft electoral list in Uttar Pradesh could be sent notices asking them to attend hearings.

Out of these 3.26 crore, approximately 1.04 crore are those who could not be mapped to the 2003 voter lists when the last SIR had been conducted, while 2.22 crore are those names which have "logical discrepancies" in mapping.

Those who could not be mapped to the 2003 lists would be required to appear before the AERO or ERO as specified in the notices and submit documents from among the 12 mandated by the Election Commission to prove their age, citizenship and place of residence. Those who received notices regarding logical discrepancies will also be required to attend the hearings and provide the requisite documents to clear the doubts.

Some of the logical discrepancies which are flagged are less than 15 years of age gap between parents and children, one parent being mapped with more than six children, less than 40 years of age gap with grandparents and a mismatch in names.

India's structural reforms generating strong investor confidence, says Vaishnaw

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with leaders in the fields of AI, robotics, and cybersecurity in Davos on Thursday. ANI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said India's reform momentum is firmly on track, driven by deep structural reforms personally steered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which have transformed the Indian economy into a high-growth, resilient, and globally trusted destination.

Speaking on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos, Mr. Vaishnaw said landmark reforms undertaken in the past few years, including labour code reforms, simplification of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), transformations in the energy sector, and the opening up of nuclear energy to the private sector were generating strong investor confidence across sectors.

He said a continuous reform process was under way across all sectors of the economy, adding that investors were enthused by the policy environment in India. He cited several instances, including IKEA announcing plans to double its investment and Qualcomm significantly expanding its workforce in India.

Highlighting India's macroeconomic fundamentals, he said India was today the fastest-growing major economy in the world, with a consistent growth trajectory of 6-8% projected over the next five years.

The combination of moderate inflation and high growth reflected the economic transformation achieved under Mr. Modi's leadership over the past decade, he said.

Noting that global perception of India at Davos had been overwhelmingly positive, with the country being widely regarded as a trusted nation demonstrating consistent economic growth, he said deliberations across panels reflected a broad consensus that India's emergence as the world's third-largest economy was now a matter of timing rather than possibility.

Court acquits Kejriwal for skipping ED summons in Delhi excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday acquitted Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in cases related to skipping summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the excise policy case.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Paras Dalal of the Rouse Avenue Court acquitted Mr. Kejriwal. A detailed order is awaited.

The agency, probing money laundering cases related to an alleged excise policy scam, had approached the court in February 2024, stating that Mr. Kejriwal, one of the accused in the matter, was not complying with its repeated summons for interrogation. The summons issued by the agency were against the law and politically motivated, Mr. Kejriwal has said.

Arvind Kejriwal

AAP leader's reaction

The AAP leader welcomed the court's verdict. "Truth alone triumphs," he said in a post on social media platform X. Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia said that no matter how hard one tries to suppress the truth, it ultimately comes out.

Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said, "The BJP's misdeeds will meet their end, and justice will prevail. Once again, the conspiracy to falsely implicate Arvind Kejriwal by misusing the ED and the CBI has been exposed. The court's order is a stinging rebuke to the Modi government."

The case stems from a complaint lodged by the Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena, who alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of Delhi's excise policy in 2022.

ED director visits Kolkata days after Mamata's intervention during search

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The Director of the Enforcement Directorate, Rahul Navin, was in Kolkata on Thursday, days after West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's intervention during searches at the Indian Political Action Committee (I-PAC) owner's house and offices.

According to officials, Mr. Navin will visit the regional office of the ED in Salt Lake and will interact with the staff to take note of the ongoing cases in eastern India. He will also reportedly look into safety and security concerns of their staff.

I-PAC searches

His visit comes against the backdrop of the ED searches at I-PAC co-founder Pratik Jain's house and I-PAC offices in Kolkata.

The ED was reportedly conducting searches in relation to a coal scam in Bengal. However, Ms. Banerjee claimed that the searches were "politically motivated to steal party data", adding that crucial data relating to the party's strategy documents and candidate lists were taken away by the ED. She was seen leaving the premises with a green file in her hand, which she did not carry while entering the area. On Wednesday, ED officials attached ₹57.78 crore worth immovable property belonging to Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha in connection with the school recruitment scam. The total attachment in the scam cases stands at ₹698 crore.

Centre paving way for bonded labour by scrapping MGNREGA, says Kharge

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday accused the Union government of paving the way for "bonded labour" by scrapping the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Addressing a national convention of MGNREGA workers here, he and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi pledged to "fight to the finish" until the UPA-era scheme was restored in its original form.

The convention was organised by Rachnatmak Congress, a new party department meant to act as a bridge with civil society, headed by former MP Sandeep Dikshit, and supported by the NREGA Sangarsh Morcha, a coalition of NGOs and unions working with MGNREGA workers.

Drawing parallels with the 13-month farmers' agitation, both leaders urged workers to prepare for a long struggle. Mr. Kharge said that by withdrawing MGNREGA, the Centre had left workers at the mercy of the wealthy, forcing them to accept "whatever meagre amount" is offered for their work. "They are trying to bring back slavery," he said.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge at a convention of MGNREGA workers on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Economic exclusion

He warned that economic exclusion could be a step towards curtailing democratic rights. "Tomorrow a day will come when only those who have money, who are income tax payers, who own land, who have degrees and big industries, will be given the right to vote. Those who don't contribute to the country, who only live off guarantees and work, they will be kept that way, that's their agenda," he said.

Scrapping MGNREGA was an attack on the Constitution, Mr. Gandhi said, similar to the government's actions during demonetisation, the GST rollout, and the introduction of the "three black farm laws". Stressing the rights-based nature of MGNREGA, he said the law was rooted in "empowering the poor" and "respect".

It strengthened Panchayati Raj institutions, he said, because panchayats decided the type of work undertaken. He argued that the BJP government was now dismantling that right, just as it had earlier attempted with the farm laws. He predicted that the new law would also be withdrawn, "I know these people, they are cowards. When faced with united resistance, they simply cave in," he said, calling for unity among the poor to restore MGNREGA.

Criticising the centralised framework of the new Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, he said it handed the Union government control over fund allocation, enabling discrimination against Opposition-ruled States and favouring BJP-ruled ones.

Mr. Gandhi said the government wanted to take India back to pre-Independence days, when "one person would decide the destiny of the entire nation". Accusing the Centre of attempting to "undermine and dismantle democracy and the Constitution," he said: "They want to destroy the concept, idea and structure of modern India."

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Irrigation Department
Tender ID: 2026_Irrig_829023_1 * Superintending Engineer * DESILTATION OF MALANKARA DAM ON TURN-KEY METHOD AT IDUKKI * Closing Date: 03-Feb-2026 * PAC: Rs648595560
Visit https://etenders.kerala.gov.in for more details.
Ro.No:19-21/Jan/2026/PRD/(N)11

Bureau of Investment Promotion
Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur
BIP/CGM (F&A)/ Date :- 12/01/2026
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for procurement of Gift Hampers for Bureau of Investment Promotion, Jaipur (a Government of Rajasthan undertaking) are invited from interested bidders up to 1:00 PM of 06.02.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portals: (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) and (http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state.
UBN No. : BIP2526GLOB00024
Raj.Samwad/C/25/18134 Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (East)
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009
No: BWSSB/CE(E)/ACE(E)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/7167/2025-26 Dated: 21.01.2026
INVITATION FOR TENDER- CALL-3
(only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tender in Two Stage Tender System from eligible contractors for the work of diversion of 1800mm dia Cauvery Stage IV Phase II water supply pipeline at ORR Service road of Bellanduru Village for Construction of BBMP Road Culvert across ORR near RMZ Eco Space coming under Haraluru Service Station of AEE SE-3 Sub Division.
Amount Put to Tender: Rs.164.93 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.2,47,000/-
Last date and time for Receipt of tenders is on **29.01.2026** upto **16:00** hours. The bids will be opened on **30.01.2026** after **16:00** hours. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (East)
DIPR/CP/5165/CCL/2025-26

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
TENDER NOTICE
The APTRANSCO invites on-line bids for Spec No.PMM23-e-43/2025 for supply of 09Nos 80MVA 132/33kV PTRs for utilization in Augmentation & Construction works at various substations of APTRANSCO. Date and time of availability of tender 23.01.2026 by 17:00 Hrs. Further details can be seen in website(s): **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** For further details Contact No: **9491030732**
RO.No: GMCC/APTRANSCO/28/26 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BHARATPUR
Ref :MCB/Technical /2025-26/21235 Date: 20.01.2026
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS –31/2025-26
Nagar Nigam Bharatpur invites Single-stage Two Part (envelope) Online unconditional open competitive bids through www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from eligible bidders Nagar Nigam Bharatpur and "A" & "AA" Class in any Central/state/ Government/semi Government organization/Contractors for the work. The document can be seen and downloaded from the website **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format as per schedule given below:

Number of Work	04 Work
Cost of Work	1806.72 Lacs.
Bid Download start date and Time from Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in	From 21.01.2026, at 10.00 AM to 12.02.2026 upto 06.00 PM
Bid Upload end date and time on Website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in	12.02.2026 Upto 06.00 PM
Pre-bid Meeting Date and Time	28.01.2026 at 11.00 AM Venue:- The Municipal Corporation Bharatpur
Submission of Document Physically/Tender Cost/RISL Fee UTR Slip	13.02.2026 upto 02.00 PM
Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	13.02.2026 at 3.00 PM
Financial Bid Opening Date and Time	Will be intimated later to technically responsive bidders.
UBN is: 1. DLB2526WLOB31401 3. DLB2526WSOB31403	2. DLB2526WSOB31402 4. DLB2526WSOB31404

Raj.Samwad/C/25/18089 Commissioner

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
252613 007013	Multi-colour Laminated Wrapper Reels of various sizes (Base Paper 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP) for Unit - I.	04.02.2026
252613 007064	Copy Crown / New Spectrum / Perfecto Laminated Wrapper Reels of various sizes (100 GSM Base Paper with 15 Micron BOPP) for Unit - I.	06.02.2026
252613 007065	Hot Melt Gum - 214 for Copier Reel Packing for Unit - I.	04.02.2026
252613 007067	180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit - I & II.	04.02.2026
252613 007086	Procurement of Wet End Liquid OBA for PM#1, 2 & 3	06.02.2026
252633 000411	Imported Limestone for Cement Plant	06.02.2026
252633 000419	Procurement of White Clay	05.02.2026
252633 000424	Procurement of PP Bag for Power Bond Cement Packing (SIZE : 29.3" X 20.5")	06.02.2026
252633 000425	Procurement of PP Bag for Power Bond ++ Cement Packing (SIZE : 29.3" X 20.5")	06.02.2026
252623 004003	Procurement of Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film Roll, 70 Microns of various sizes (100 CM, 110 CM, 120 CM & 135 CM) for TNPL Unit - II.	09.02.2026
252623 003977	Procurement of CATIONIC ROSIN for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	06.02.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/366/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

INBRIEF

167 drug samples flagged for quality lapses in December

In the monthly drug alert issued by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the Central Drug Laboratories found 74 samples manufactured by various firms to be "not of standard quality (NSQ)", while State drug testing laboratories identified 93 samples that failed to meet prescribed quality standards. The list of NSQ and spurious drugs are being displayed on the CDSCO portal. The data has been released for December. "The failure is specific to drug products of the batch tested by the Government Laboratory, and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market," said a note released by the Ministry.

Man found dead after wife killed in 'accidental firing'

Yashrajsinh Gohil, nephew of senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh Gohil, reportedly killed himself with his own revolver after his wife died when he appears to have accidentally fired the weapon at their residence in Ahmedabad, the police said on Thursday. The incident occurred shortly before midnight on Wednesday in their flat in NRI Tower, Bodakdev area. According to the police, preliminary investigation and a statement by Yashrajsinh's mother indicate that the firearm discharged accidentally while he was checking his revolver in the bedroom. A bullet went off by mistake and struck his wife, Rajeshwari, near her neck, the police said.

Officials 'coercing' us to surrender land: tribals

Great Nicobar Island project includes forest lands where Nicobarese lived before 2004 tsunami; 'it is our ancestral land, we will have nothing for the future generations,' says council member

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With some sections of the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project "nearing approval", members of the Tribal Council in Little and Great Nicobar on Thursday alleged that they are being pressured by the district administration to "surrender our ancestral lands" to make way for the project.

Parts of the project in Galathea Bay, Pemmaya Bay, and Nanjappa Bay require the diversion of forest lands on which the indigenous Nicobarese people had been living before the 2004 tsunami.

In an online briefing to journalists, Tribal Council members said they had been called for a January 7 meeting with Nicobar district administration officials, where they were orally asked to sign a "surrender certificate", giving up their ancestral tribal lands. Hours after the briefing, they were summoned for another meeting where they were asked if they would give up their claims on a portion of their lands if they were allowed to relocate to a different section of the coast.

Tribal Council members say they were asked to sign a surrender certificate, giving up their ancestral lands. FILE PHOTO

Deputy Commissioner of Nicobar Amit Kale Marutirao, and Assistant Commissioner (Campbell Bay) Keshav Narendra Singh, have not responded to *The Hindu*'s requests for comment.

"At [the January 7] meeting, a few officials of the district were present along with a representative of the administration's Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti. We were shown various maps regarding the project and we were asked about our opinion on the development project. And then we were asked to sign the surrender certificate," Tribal Council chairman Barnabas Manju said, adding that the meeting, held at the Andaman Public Works Department guesthouse in Nicobar's Campbell Bay, lasted about 10 minutes. The Tribal Council members told the officials that they would have to discuss it amongst themselves.

At the press briefing, Titus Peter, 1st Captain of Pulobhabi village and a member of the Council, said, "We cannot sign a surrender document like this. It is our ancestral tribal land. We will have nothing for the future generations." Mr. Manju noted that it had been 21 years since they were displaced by the 2004 tsunami and are yet to hear from the administration about their requests to return to the location of their ancestral villages that had been destroyed by the tsunami.

Council members said they were not told any specifics about the "surrender certificate", though Mr. Manju noted that "the officials said they would help us draft it if needed." The Tribal Council is the apex representative body of the Nicobarese community, which is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe.

"It is not clear what parts of our ancestral land the officials are referring to. Our understanding is that they want the surrender certificate to mention areas that are covered under what used to be our villages before we were displaced by the tsunami," said Mr. Peter, pointing to the west coast on a map of Great Nicobar Island.

Prayagraj mela authorities serve fresh notice on seer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The mela authorities accused the seer of disturbing the peace and provoking law-and-order issues

The clash over the alleged mistreatment of Swami Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati intensified on Thursday after the Prayagraj mela authorities served another notice on the religious leader accusing him of disturbing the peace and provoking law-and-order problems. They threatened to cancel the seer's land allotment and permanently bar him from participating in the religious fair.

The row between the mela authorities and the swami started on January 18, on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya, when he allegedly tried to reach Sangam for bathing, using his chariot without permission. The seer claimed that his followers had been mistreated.

The blame game escalated over the past week with political parties and religious leaders coming out in open support of Swami Avimukteshwaranand.

Possible stampede

In a notice issued on January 18, which the seer said he received on January 22, he was accused of breaking a barrier on a bridge over the river. The authorities also accused him of trying to forcibly enter a crowded area with a chariot, allegedly creating a stampede-like situation.

"…. you created a situation of conflict and possibility of a stampede which could have resulted in significant loss of life," the notice reads.

It added that his actions had disrupted the arrangements for the Magh Mela on Mauni Amavasya, and posed a serious threat to the safety of those attending the mela.

The seer has been asked to reply in 24 hours why the land and facilities provided to his organisation should not be revoked and why he should not be permanently barred from the mela.

In response, the Swami said that he had not broken any rule and was not using any chariot at the venue. He explained that it was the police that had opened the bridge for him and also alleged that the police and the administration are misusing their powers.

DRDO missile to feature at Republic Day parade

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will highlight India's growing indigenous defence capabilities by showcasing several path-breaking technologies at the 77th Republic Day parade and "Bharat Parv 2026" at the Red Fort.

The key attractions of the programme include the Long Range Anti-Ship Hypersonic Missile (LR-AShM), and a dedicated DRDO tableau.

The DRDO will display the LR-AShM along with its launcher during the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path.

The LR-AShM is a hypersonic glide missile capable of engaging both static and moving targets with high precision.

'Sindoor' formation by Air Force fighter jets to lead Republic Day flypast

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will showcase a formation of frontline fighter jets with the call sign "Sindoor" during the Republic Day flypast, symbolising India's aerial dominance during Operation Sindoor, the high-precision tri-services military campaign conducted against Pakistan last May.

The spearhead formation will comprise two Rafale jets, two MiG-29s, two Su-30 MKIs and one Jaguar aircraft – all of which actively participated in the operation. The flypast will carry the flag of Operation Sindoor, commemorating India's decisive military response following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Indian Air Force's fighter jets fly past during the rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

A senior defence official said 29 aircraft, including fighter jets, four transport aircraft and nine helicopters, will participate in the flypast. For the first time, the flypast will be conducted in two segments - the first during the march-past and the second after the parade.

The flypast will showcase multiple formations such as Sindoor, Dhwaj, Prahar, Garud, Arjan, Varuna, and Vajrang. In a special tribute, four Mi-17 helicopters will shower flower petals over the marching contingents on Kartavya Path. A special formation during the flypast will be dedicated to Operation Sindoor, the official said.

Govt. calls for airlines to take IndiGo's vacated slots

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday asked airlines to submit their requests for operating domestic flights on the slots vacated by IndiGo, following the curtailment of the winter schedule in the wake of the December operational disruptions.

The Civil Aviation Ministry's communication said the committee on redistribution of the vacated IndiGo slots held its first meeting on January 13, wherein the process and principles for redistribution were discussed.

Following the deliberations, the panel had now asked airlines to submit their requests and preferences for the vacated slots, subject to various conditions, it added.

Press Club of India slams J&K Police over 'oral summons' to journalists

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India (PCI) on Thursday criticised the Jammu and Kashmir Police for its decision to "orally summon several journalists, including Srinagar-based reporters of at least three national dailies, for questioning without providing them with specific reasons while doing so".

'Indicates harassment'

In a statement, the PCI said, "The reporters have been questioned over routine, fact-based reports based on publicly available information – a clear attempt to prevent them from fulfilling their duties as journalists."

"The fact that one of these reporters had to spend 15 hours over four days in Srinagar's Cyber Police Station and was told to sign a bond saying that he would not 'disturb the peace' indicates the harassment being unleashed on journalists in the region."

"Such arbitrary actions create an overall atmosphere of fear, where journalists cannot go about their daily jobs and exercise their constitutional right to work freely," it said.

Demanding that the Jammu and Kashmir authorities allow journalists to discharge their duties without fear of intimidation and coercion and follow due process in their interactions with journalists, the Press Club of India said, "India's vibrant democracy stands on the shoulders of a free and fearless press; actions like this work to undermine that tradition."

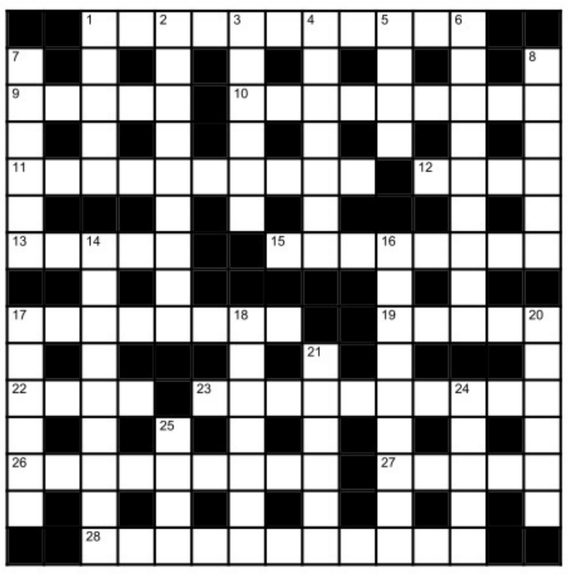
> India's vibrant democracy stands on the shoulders of a free and fearless press; actions like this work to undermine that tradition
> PCI STATEMENT

TH CROSSWORD + 14698

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Unpaid? Super! (11)
9 Swears on affidavit typed hastily, for starters, and signs finally (5)
10 Prudent to go around country with Romeo and Lothario (9)
11 Misleading clue for "Sacred ornament worn by her after removing pouch" (3,7)
12 Wiki wrongly spelt bird (4)
13 Fine cotton thread from large island (5)
15 Excitedly petting around end of arm and seducing (8)
17 Talking without a bandage (8)
19 Boy leaves river submerging girl's animal (5)
22 Uncovered part of menu deleted (4)
23 No place to die inside the house (6-4)
26 Savage baron is in front of funny Arabian carrying redhead (9)
27 Prod guardsmen giving up arms and running (5)
28 Little dog with European mother's mother consumed fruit (11)

Down

1 Chose operation to explore deep initially (5)
2 Seattle preparation on ship is insipid (9)
3 Worst construction around eastern skyscrapers (6)
4 Named person... one jumping around pit (7)
5 Charged particles found in onion skin (4)
6 Going, consuming small sip, and indulging in idle talk (9)
7 Rolls Royce is parked in fuel enclosure (6)
8 Is making a mistake placing ornament behind queen (6)
14 Policeman's stake-out near road wrongly taped person... Not on! (5,4)
16 A label fixed in piano built in South American region (9)
17 European carrying university boy's flower (6)
18 Perhaps, transfixing top class fish behind end of barn (7)
20 The Desert Fox starting to march in capital with trainee (6)
21 Flower from Zulu hostelry is available in the beginning (6)
24 Historically popular song, perhaps, in soldier's heart (5)
25 Moderately hot conflict with maiden (4)

SUDOKU

9		1						
	2	6		1	9			
3			8	5				1
6					8			7
		3		4		6		
2			6					5
7				9	3			6
			2	7		3	5	
						7		4

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6769 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

L	P	A	C	I	C	K		
B	A	L	L	F	L	O	W	N
H	A	N	G		I	A	F	
M	I	E	E		B	R	O	N
C	O	I	N	T	E	R	R	E
D		C	R	C	I	R		
C	A	T	H	E	D	R	A	
A	S	Y	L	U	M		P	E
L	T	N		F	R	I	T	T
E	R		D	E	S	P	A	I
R		O		L	P		A	O
I	N	D	I	G	O		R	I
V	E	T	I	N	G		N	
E	A	E		G	U	N	F	I
G	H	T		C	O	N	F	E
R		S	A		A	E	A	T
A		B	A	R	N		T	E
X	A	N		E	A	S	T	
F		T	E		T	T	D	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	5	7	6	4	9	2	3
9	3	2	5	1	8	4	6	7
7	4	6	9	3	2	8	1	5
5	7	8	4	2	9	1	3	6
4	9	3	6	5	1	2	7	8
2	6	1	3	8	7	5	9	4
3	2	7	1	4	5	6	8	9
6	1	4	8	9	3	7	5	2
8	5	9	2	7	6	3	4	1

FAITH

Basant Panchami

Basant Panchami has both cultural and spiritual import, said Prof. Kumool Abbi. It is the festival of Saraswati, Goddess of knowledge, music, arts and aesthetics. In the Shanti Parv of the epic Mahabharata, She is called the mother of Vedas. She removes ignorance, nescience and darkness, infusing warmth, brightness, clarity, luminescence, melody, harmony, purity and pure joy.

Basant Panchami is commemorated on the Magh Sud, that is the fifth day of the bright lunar fortnight (Sukla Paksha), of the month of Magha in the Indian lunar calendar.

In Punjab, Basant Panchami signals the process of the end of winter and the beginning of spring. For farmers, it signifies a preparation and readiness for the harvesting of crops. The yellow mustard flowers are in full bloom and with their brightness, they symbolise the positivity of the human spirit. The occasion is celebrated with sounds of the *dhol*, the pulsating bhangra, flying of colourful kites, the preparation of yellow rice, and wearing of yellow hued clothes.

In Punjab, the Dukh Nivaram Sahib Gurdwara at Patiala and the Chheharta Sahib Gurdwara at Amritsar are renowned for the sacred commemoration of Basant Panchami.

For the Sufis, the celebration of Basant Panchami is a practice initiated by Amir Khusro on the resting place of Nizamuddin Auliya of the Chisti Order. As stated in the Guru Granth Sahib, *Aaj hamara grah basant*, 'Today is springtime and I am imbibed with the deep crimson hue of the Lord's divine love.'

INBRIEF

EEPC urges lowering I-T for non-corporate MSMEs

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC) has demanded lowering income tax for non-corporate manufacturing MSMEs in the Union Budget and expediting payment of GST refunds. The council urged that I-T for all non-corporate manufacturing MSMEs be reduced to 25% from 33%, and 90% of GST refunds be released immediately. It also proposed allowing 100% depreciation on rooftop solar investments by manufacturing MSMEs instead of 20% now.

IIFL Finance Q3 net soars to ₹501 crore; scrip tanks 13%

IIFL Finance on Thursday said its December quarter net profit grew multifold to ₹501 crore compared with ₹82 crore in the year-ago period. IIFL Finance said the Income Tax Department has directed the company to get its accounts audited for a specified block period under Section 142(2A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, and to appoint a "special auditor" for the purpose. Shares of IIFL Finance tanked 13.15% to close at ₹540.80 apiece on the BSE. PTI

Power transmission network scales past 5 lakh ckm: Govt.

India's national power transmission network has scaled past 5 lakh circuit kilometres (ckm) of transmission lines of 220 kilovolt (kV) and above, the Power Ministry informed on Thursday. According to the power ministry, the country's transmission network has grown by 71.6% since April 2014 with the addition of 2.09 lakh ckm of transmission lines alongside the addition of 876 GVA of transformation capacity during the mentioned period.

Flight cancellations cost IndiGo ₹577 crore

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

IndiGo's cancellation of about 5,000 flights in November and December cost the airline ₹577 crore, contributing to a 77.6% plunge in profit to ₹549 crore for the quarter ended December.

The airline recorded a profit of ₹2,448 crore in the year-ago period. The decline in profit was also driven by the implementation of new labour laws, which led to a charge of ₹969 crore, and by currency movements related to dollar-denominated future obligations amounting to ₹1,035 crore.

Chief Financial Officer Gaurav Negi said aircraft capacity additions would moderate to about 10%, down from 15-20%, as deliveries had been aligned with a reduced flight schedule following a 10% cut imposed by the DGCA, resulting in 200 fewer flights.

CEO Pieter Elbers did not answer questions from analysts on how the airline was reviewing its pilot recruitment plans and the exact number of pilots it was short of, though the DGCA found its over 5,000 flight cancellations in November and December were due to pilot duty rosters being stretched too thin after the new rest and duty norms came into effect from November 1.

It imposed a fine of ₹22 crore for non compliance with the new rules.

Over 9.5 lakh passengers were affected due to flight disruptions.

Net FDI negative for fourth month in a row in Nov. 2025

Net foreign portfolio investments have also been negative so far in the financial year 2025-26, with uncertainty over the India-U.S. trade deal and the weakening rupee affecting investor confidence

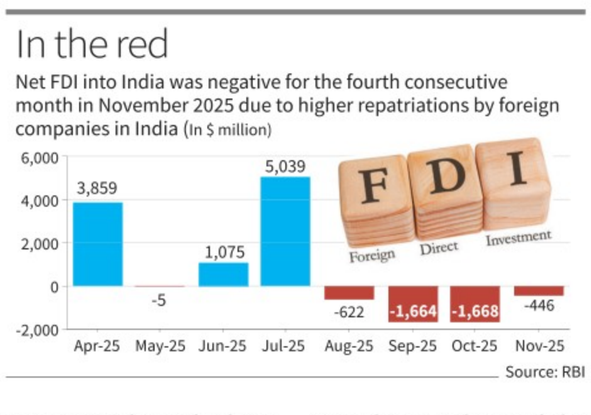
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's net foreign direct investments (FDI) remained negative for the fourth consecutive month in November 2025, with outflows exceeding inflows by $446 million that month, an analysis of latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows.

The data, released as part of the RBI's monthly bulletin, shows that the main reason direct investment outflows exceeded inflows in November was because of relatively high repatriations and disinvestments by foreign companies operating in India.

Direct investments are typically made in assets and are viewed as growth-generating, as opposed to portfolio investments, which are generally done in equity and debt for expected returns.

The RBI noted that net foreign portfolio investments (FPI) have also been negative so far in the financial year 2025-26, with uncertainty over the India-U.S. trade deal and the weakening rupee affecting investor confidence.



Steady gross inflows

Gross direct inflows, which is the total amount of direct investment coming into the country, stood at $6.4 billion in November 2025, 22.5% higher than the amount received in November 2024. It was, however, marginally lower than the $6.5 billion received in October and the $7 billion in September.

"Gross inward FDI remained steady in November with Japan, Singapore, and the U.S. accounting for more than 75% of total FDI inflows," the RBI said in its report.

"The highest recipients (around 75%) of FDI inflows were the financial services sector, followed by manufacturing, and retail and wholesale trade," the report added.

Net FDI, however, which is the balance between outflows and inflows stood at -$446 million, meaning total outflows exceeded total inflows by that amount.

Within this, repatriation and disinvestment stood at a five-month high of $5.3 billion in November 2025, albeit 1.2% lower than it was in November 2024.

Outward FDI, which is the investments made by Indian companies abroad, stood at $1.5 billion in November 2025, less than half the $3.2 billion in October.

"Outward FDI moderated in November, with Singapore, Mauritius, the U.S. and the U.K. accounting for more than half of total outward FDI," the RBI noted.

"Sector-specific breakdown suggests that more than 70% of outward FDI was in manufacturing, financial, insurance, and business services."

The RBI report said that net foreign portfolio investments were negative for the 2025-26 financial year up to January 16, 2026.

SEC seeks to bypass India on summons to Adani

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has asked a U.S. court for permission to personally email summons to Indian billionaire Gautam Adani and group executive Sagar Adani over alleged fraud and a $265 million bribery scheme, filings show.

India, the SEC said, has previously refused two requests to serve the summons.

In the most high-profile legal case in the U.S. involving an Indian conglomerate, the SEC has been trying to send summons to Adani group founder Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar since last year.

Adani group has called the allegations "baseless" and said that it would seek "all possible legal recourse" to defend itself.

It did not immediately respond to *Reuters'* request for comment on the latest SEC filing, dated January 21.

In the response to the New York court, the U.S. markets regulator said it "does not expect service to be completed" through the current route and should be allowed to directly email the summons to the Adani group executives.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,307	0.49
US Dollar	91.58	0.07
Gold	1,57,200	-0.31
Brent oil	64.27	-1.21

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2086.40	54.20
Adani Ports	1414.20	35.60
Apollo Hosp	6797.00	-29.50
Asian Paints	2703.80	42.70
Axis Bank	1294.80	9.90
Bajaj Auto	9370.00	191.00
Bajaj Finserv	1993.10	33.20
Bajaj Finance	942.85	6.60
Bharat Elec	417.30	14.65
Bharti Airtel	2002.20	6.10
Cipla	1370.40	0.80
Coal India	423.20	9.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1217.50	60.30
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7049.00	-91.00
Eternal Ltd.	275.90	-7.60
Grasim Ind	2787.60	52.00
HCL Tech	1703.10	20.60
HDFC Bank	918.70	-1.65
HDFC Life	725.10	0.75
Hindalco	944.45	5.25
Hind Unilever	2390.60	22.60
ICICI Bank	1345.50	-3.50
IntGlobeAvi	4909.00	51.50
Infosys	1663.50	9.10
ITC	324.85	0.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	262.60	-0.65
JSW Steel	1184.40	9.80
Kotak Bank	426.00	4.40
L&T	3793.80	27.30
M&M	3573.70	20.40
Maruti Suzuki	15765.00	-5.00
Max Healthcare	998.80	-5.40
NestleIndia	1306.00	22.80
NTPC	342.45	3.75
ONGC	244.01	1.64
PowerGrid Corp	259.25	3.45
Reliance Ind	1402.50	-2.10
SBI Life	2022.00	-33.40
State Bank	1048.35	19.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1005.50	19.50
Sun Pharma	1634.20	21.30
TataConsumerProduct	1175.20	11.60
Tata Steel	189.10	4.69
TCS	3150.40	27.80
Tech Mahindra	1687.40	0.70
Titan	4018.60	-60.60
Tata Motors PV	347.30	8.05
Trent Ltd.	3803.80	39.40
UltraTech Cement	12364.00	133.00
Wipro	240.65	1.10

DE: Demerged Entity

TVS Emerald raises ₹425 cr.

Realty firm TVS Emerald has raised ₹425 crore in equity funding from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to fund its new housing projects. TVS Emerald is part of the TVS Group. PTI

Adani Energy Solutions Q3 net profit falls 8% to ₹574 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Adani Energy Solutions Ltd. (AESL), for the third quarter ended December 31 reported a 8.2% year-on-year (YoY) fall in net profit to ₹574 crore.

"This was on account of a positive impact of deferred tax of ₹185 crore last year in Q3FY25 which has to be adjusted for a like-for-like comparison," the company said in a filing.

Adjusted profit after tax was up 30.4% to ₹574 crore, translating from double-digit EBITDA expansion, the company said. Cash profit was up 22.8% to ₹1,227 crore.

'Not easy to handle Venezuela oil, will assess in due course'

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Venezuelan crude has high viscosity and acid number, but does provide some opportunities based on what is being offered, a senior Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) official told investors in a conference call on Thursday.

"Venezuelan crude apart from being bottom-heavy, also has high viscosity and high acid number," director for refineries S. Bharathan said, adding: "We will have some opportunities. We will evaluate as and when we can get offers and [we will] take it accordingly."

He was responding to a query on seeing Venezuelan crude as an additional opportunity with the bottom-upgrade project in Vishakhapatnam in place.

Consolidated Q3 net profit grew 58% to ₹4,011 crore.

For clarity, higher viscosity is indicative of thick oil with resistance to flow while the acid number is used to determine the acidity and the chemical mix existing naturally in the oil.

An opportunity

CMD Vikas Kaushal added having crude from HPCL's Barmer refinery, which is in final stages of commissioning and potentially from Venezuela would provide "at least an opportunity to evaluate and see. It is not an easy crude to handle but the fact that we have an asset gives us that opportunity."

HPCL reported consolidated Q3 net profit grew by about 57.7% year-over-year basis to ₹4,011 crore on an improvement in gross refining margins. The scrip closed 0.29% lower at ₹427.70 apiece on the BSE and about 0.36% lower at ₹427.50 apiece on the NSE.

Indians' abroad spend slips to 2-year low as foreign-study outgo plunges

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The amount of money sent or spent abroad by Indians fell to a two-year low of $1.94 billion in November 2025, pulled down in large part by a sharp dip in the amount spent on foreign studies, which slid to its lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic-impacted month of April 2020.

Analysis of data on the outward remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Liberalised Remittances Scheme (LRS), shows the other driver of the fall in overall remittances in November 2025 was a dip in the amount spent on foreign travel.

Money spent on studies abroad fell 30% to $120.9 million.

Total outward remittances under the LRS stood at $1.94 billion in November 2025, down 0.5% from its level in November 2024. This is the lowest it has been since November 2023.

Within this, however, the amount spent on studies abroad fell to $120.9 million in November 2025 or 30% lower than in the same month of 2024. The amount spent on foreign travel slid to $1.1 billion in November 2025, down 1.1% from November 2024.

Geopolitical tensions

"Outward remittances have shown a clear divergence in trend this year," Pavan Kavad, MD, Prithvi Exchange, a BSE-listed and Fortune 500 foreign exchange dealer, told *The Hindu*. "Global uncertainty caused by geopolitical tensions and tighter policy conditions in key destination markets, has weighed on outward remittances, particularly those linked to education."

Cautious approach

"A visible slowdown in student enrollments and education-related spending across markets such as the U.S., the U.K., and Canada translated into softer remittance flows, as families adopt a more cautious approach amid rising costs, visa uncertainties, and delayed intake cycles," Mr. Kavad added. Looking at a longer time-period, the data shows outward remittances during April-November 2025 period stood at $19.1 billion, down 4.3% year-on-year.

RMZ, Maharashtra Govt. units to aid $30 billion investments

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

As part of association with CIDCO RMZ will develop data centre, commercial projects in Navi Mumbai

RMZ, a group owned by the Menda family and Asia's leading integrated alternative-assets platform, announced an investment partnership with Maharashtra Government entities Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (CIDCO) to facilitate investments of up to $30 billion in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) over the next 10 years in a phased manner with the potential to generate about three lakh direct and indirect jobs across the project lifecycle.

An agreement to this effect was signed at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 in Davos.

Driving growth

The collaboration is aimed at driving economic growth through FDI in urban, regional, and infrastructure development.

As part of the partnership with MMRDA, RMZ will lead investment structuring and capital mobilisation, along with master planning, development, and long-term asset management, drawing on global best practices across real estate assets, infrastructure, logistics parks, and data centres.

To identify land

MMRDA will facilitate land identification and aggregation, provide policy level support and planning along with the approval process for the project.

As part of the association with CIDCO, RMZ will develop new data centre and commercial projects in Navi Mumbai. The project is likely to start in the financial year 2026-27 with CIDCO supporting RMZ in obtaining all the necessary permissions, land allotments, approval and clearances from relevant government departments.

Indian Bank Q3 net rises 7.3% to ₹3,061 cr.

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Indian Bank standalone profit after tax rose 7.3% year-on-year to ₹3,061.4 crore in Q3FY26.

Net interest income (NII) climbed 7.5% to ₹6,896 crore on an increase in Retail, Agriculture and MSME (RAM) loans in the quarter. The share of all the three put together increased to 66% in the quarter-ended December 2025 from about 64% a year earlier.

Cut in personal loans

The bank kept personal loan books lean and further reduced exposure by 9.8% to ₹6,706 crore.

The lender made a "conscious effort" to keep it low, Binod Kumar, CEO and MD told *The Hindu*. The decision assumes importance in the context of rising asset quality risks in the segment. Net interest margin slid 0.17% to 3.4% while gross non-performing Assets (NPA) as a share of total advances dipped 2.23% from 3.3% a year-earlier. Net NPAs reduced to 0.15% from 0.21%.

Binod Kumar

Exposure to U.S. market may reduce on tariffs: TASE Global

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Exposure to the U.S. market is likely to reduce on account of tariffs, said Sankararaman Vaidyanathan, chairman,TASE Global.

Addressing the media during the inauguration of TASE Global facility for aerostructure components at Sriperumbudur, near here, Mr. Vaidyanathan said: "There is an impact of tariffs. Definitely that hurts us a lot. We will migrate, that is why we are transferring, going towards Europe," he said.

We are supplying to AsiaPacific. Our exposure to the U.S. market last year was close to around 90%. This year it will be coming down to 40%."

Trusted Aerospace Engineering (TASE Global), a leading global precision manufacturing firm with operations across India, the U.S. and Europe, announced the inauguration of its new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility at Sriperumbudur.

The facility was opened by Eng. Masahiko Mori, president, DMG MORI, Japan. This facility, built with an investment of ₹150 crore, is dedicated to building aerostructure parts in addition to the existing manufacturing of aero engine and precision medical parts for export.

Global opportunity

This strategic expansion represents a significant milestone in the company's journey as it enters the surging global market for aerostructures, currently valued at about $70 billion annually. The firm said, this facility positions it to 'capture a $100 million revenue share over three years through higher aircraft output and defence programmes worldwide.'

Additional revenue

The facility would enable additional revenue of ₹300 crore annually in three years, the firm added.

Central to this growth is TASE Global partnership with DMG MORI, which has outfitted the unit with 30 advanced high-precision machines, renowned for blending German engineering precision with Japanese technology.

SYLHET

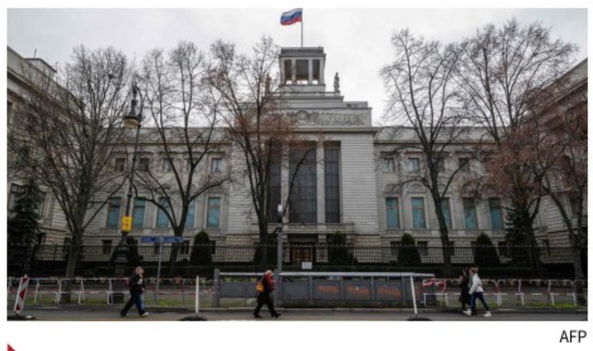
Campaigning begins in Bangladesh for first post-Hasina national polls

AP

Bangladesh began official campaigning on Thursday for the hugely anticipated general elections next month, the first since the 2024 uprising ended the autocratic rule of Sheikh Hasina. Tarique Rahman, BNP chairman and son of former Premier Khaleda Zia, is widely seen as a leading contender for Prime Minister. AFP

BERLIN

Russia slams German spy charges, vows response for expelling official



AFP

Russia's embassy in Berlin on Thursday vowed retaliation after Germany expelled a diplomat accused of being an intelligence officer who worked as the handler of a woman arrested on spy charges. The embassy called the allegations "a ridiculous, hastily concocted provocation". AFP

BANGKOK

Fire at Cox's Bazar refugee camp displaces thousands of Rohingya

REUTERS

A massive fire destroyed hundreds of makeshift homes and displaced more than 2,000 people in a Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, prompting calls on Thursday from relief agencies for more funding to build safer housing and help provide emergency aid. AP

SYDNEY

Gunman at large in Australia after leaving three dead, one wounded

REUTERS

Australian police said they were hunting for a gunman on the run after three people were killed and another was wounded on Thursday in the town of Lake Cargelligo in New South Wales. A report said one of the victims was the gunman's former partner, describing the incident as a suspected domestic violence attack. AFP

Trump withdraws tariffs after NATO 'agrees to Greenland framework'

President said the U.S. and NATO had 'formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and the entire Arctic Region'; European leaders have tried a mixture of flattery and tough talking to counter threats from the U.S. leader

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump called off his threat of tariffs on eight European countries, including Denmark, announced last Saturday to compel them to transfer the semi-autonomous Danish territory of Greenland to the U.S.

Mr. Trump had said he would acquire the strategically located Arctic island "one way or another". The countries in question had each sent a small number of troops to Greenland earlier this month, following Mr. Trump's recent threats.

Mr. Trump announced that he was cancelling the tariffs on Wednesday evening, on his Truth Social media platform, after what he called a "very productive" meeting with Mark Rutte, the Secretary General of NATO in Davos.

Iron fist: U.S. President Donald Trump at the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday. AFP

Mr. Trump said the U.S. and NATO had "formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic Region" and that he would not be imposing the tariffs set to begin February 1 based on the understanding reached. The tariffs were set to kick off at a rate of 10%, increasing to 25% in June 2026.

"Additional discussions are being held concerning the Golden Dome as it pertains to Greenland," said Mr. Trump, referring to a multi-layered missile and air defence system he intends to build for the U.S.

Just prior to his discussions with Mr. Rutte, the U.S. President told a gathering in Davos that he was not going to use force to annex Greenland. Europe has been on edge over Mr. Trump's aggressive pursuit of the Arctic island Mr. Trump has suggested that Russia and China pose an imminent threat to Greenland, a claim denied by the Russians. European leaders, who in general do not share the same risk assessment on Russia and China's intentions in the Arctic, have tried a mixture of flattery and tough talking in response to Mr. Trump's threats. The European Parliament suspended the approval of a EU-U.S. trade agreement struck in 2025.

While the terms of the agreed framework appear to be under discussion, Mr. Trump said that Vice-President J.D. Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and special envoy Steve Witkoff would be among those responsible for the negotiations.

'Finger on the trigger': Iran Guards chief cautions U.S.

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards on Thursday warned Washington that the force had its "finger on the trigger" in the wake of mass protests, as U.S. President Donald Trump said the Islamic republic still appeared interested in talks.

Guards commander General Mohammad Pakpour warned Israel and the United States "to avoid any miscalculations, by learning from historical experiences and what they learned in the 12-day imposed war, so that they do not face a more painful and regrettable fate".

Mr. Trump has repeatedly left open the option of new military action against Iran after Washington backed and joined Israel's 12-day war in June 2025.

Addressing the World Economic Forum in Davos, Mr. Trump said the U.S. struck Iranian uranium enrichment sites last year to prevent Tehran from making a nuclear weapon. Iran denies its nuclear programme is aimed at seeking the bomb.

"Can't let that happen," he said, adding: "And Iran does want to talk, and we'll talk."

Official toll

Meanwhile, Iranian authorities on Wednesday said 3,117 people were killed, providing their first official toll from the protests.

India, EU to ink new pact on defence and security, says Kallas

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and the European Union agreed on Wednesday to sign a new Security and Defence Partnership covering maritime security, cybersecurity and counterterrorism, the EU's highest ranking diplomat Kaja Kallas announced.

The partnership will be signed next week during the visit of European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President Antonio Costa to India, where they will be chief guests at Republic Day celebrations.

The leaders will co-chair the 16th India-EU Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The preparations for the visit were going well, but were not without challenges, said Ms. Kallas, who will be accompanying the leaders to India. The visit is centred around the signing of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is still being finalised.

India and the EU will adopt a new comprehensive strategic agenda next week, using a 2030 planning horizon, Ms. Kallas told European parliamentarians in Strasbourg. She noted that the EU is among India's largest trading partners and described India as "indispensable" to Europe's economic resilience.

The two sides worked on the joint statement and agenda mindful of the fact that the Summit "must deliver, taking into account the geopolitical landscape", Ms. Kallas said.

Ambitious partners

The two sides are also aiming to conclude a Security of Information Agreement, Ms. Kallas said, adding that in a dangerous world, India and the EU could benefit from working together.

"[The] EU and India are moving closer together at a time when the rules-based international order is under unprecedented pressure through wars, coercion, and economic fragmentation," she said.

Ms. Kallas told MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) that India and the EU must become more ambitious partners. "Two major democracies cannot afford to hesitate," she said.

During the visit to New Delhi, the two sides plan to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on a comprehensive mobility framework, to facilitate the movement of students, seasonal workers, researchers and highly skilled professionals, and promoting research and innovation, Ms. Kallas said.

"In the Indo-Pacific and beyond, Europe and India can help anchor stability by defending open sea lanes, strengthening maritime domain awareness and resisting coercion in all of its forms," Ms. Kallas told parliamentarians.

Europe has to 'act now' to ensure security: Zelenskyy

Agencies
DAVOS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday blasted the EU's lack of "political will" in countering Russian leader Vladimir Putin, during a fiery address criticising some of Kyiv's top allies at the World Economic Forum.

He spoke after meeting U.S. President Donald Trump in Davos for talks on ending the war which both leaders described as positive.

But he urged European leaders to be more robust in defending democratic values in their region, as U.S. attention turns away. "Just last year, here in Davos, I ended my speech with the words: Europe needs to know how to defend itself. A year has passed. And nothing has changed. We are still in a situation where I must say the same words again," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Ukrainian President says that documents for a deal to end the war 'nearly ready'

M. Zelenskyy said there would be two days of trilateral meetings involving the U.S., Ukraine and Russia due to begin in the United Arab Emirates on Friday. "Russians have to be ready for compromises because, you know, everybody has to be ready, not only Ukraine, and this is important for us," he said

He added that Europe needs to "act now". Russia's bigger army has managed to capture about 20% of Ukraine since hostilities began in 2014 and its invasion of 2022.

Mr. Zelenskyy said documents for a deal to end the war in Ukraine are "nearly, nearly ready." Some of the documents seek security guarantees, while others cover economic plans for the future of Ukraine.

France intercepts oil tanker from Russia

Associated Press
PARIS

France's Navy, working with intelligence provided by the United Kingdom, on Thursday intercepted an oil tanker in the Mediterranean Sea that travelled from Russia, in a mission targeting the sanctioned Russian shadow fleet, officials said.

French maritime authorities for the Mediterranean said the ship, *Grinch*, is suspected of operating with a false flag. The French Navy is escorting the ship to anchorage for more checks, the statement said. The tanker departed from the city of Murmansk in northwestern Russia, it said.

Oil revenue is a key part of Russia's economy, allowing President Vladimir Putin to pour money into the war effort against Ukraine.

Sinners makes Oscar history with record 16 nominations

Agence France-Presse
LOS ANGELES

Vampire period horror film *Sinners*, directed by Ryan Coogler, smashed the all-time Oscars record with 16 nominations, the Academy announced on Thursday. The tally included a best actor nomination for Michael B. Jordan.

One Battle After Another came in second with 13 nods including best picture, best actor for Leonardo DiCaprio and best director for Paul Thomas Anderson.

Guillermo del Toro's monster epic *Frankenstein*, Timothee Chalamet-led ping-pong drama *Marty Supreme* and Norwegian arthouse favourite *Sentimental Value* each bagged nine nominations. Period drama *Hamnet* secured eight nods including best actress for Jessie Buckley.

Film mosaic: Promo art for Oscar nominees for best picture. AP

Mr. DiCaprio, Mr. Chalamet and Mr. Jordan will battle for the best actor Oscar, along with Ethan Hawke for Broadway period drama *Blue Moon* and Wagner Moura from Brazilian political thriller *The Secret Agent*. For best actress, Ms. Buckley will compete with Emma Stone in conspiracy theorist drama *Bugonia*, Renate Reinsve in *Sentimental Value*, Kate Hudson in music biopic *Song Sung Blue*, and Rose Byrne in indie hit *If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*.

Persian-language Palme d'Or winner *It Was Just An Accident*, Spain's hippie odyssey *Sirat* and heart-wrenching Palestinian docudrama *The Voice of Hind Rajab* will compete for best international film.

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK

('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)15/2025-26

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 10 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Road Works.
4. Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 02.02.2026 to 17.30 Hours of 16.02.2026
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 17.02.2026 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

B-1017: Chief Engineer (Civil), Cuttack (R&B) Circle

By E_Mail / e-Despatch : E Mail ID : serwcbaripada@gmail.com; Ph-No-06792-261343/261344, Gangraj, Baripada

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA

Office Order No.110/ Dt.06.01.26//

2nd Corrigendum to National Competitive Bidding e_procurement Notice No.5497/Road work Dt.27.11.2025 (NCB No.-402)

Due to unavoidable circumstances the important dates of tendering process for road works are being changed as follows.

Sl No.	Item	Time Schedule as per Original NCB	Time Schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	07.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 22.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM	**29.01.2026 at 11.00 AM to 13.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM**
2	Date and Time of Seeking Tender Clarification if any	21.01.2026 up to 5.00 PM	**12.02.2026 up to 05.00 PM**
3	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid	23.01.2026 at 11.00 AM	**16.02.2026 at 11.00 AM**
4	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	Will be intimated later	**Will be intimated later**

Due to unavoidable circumstances the estimated cost of tendering process for Road Works are being changed as follows:- **Sl No-(1) Read as Rs.912.29 Lakhs instead of Rs.879.75 Lakhs, Sl No-(2) Read as Rs.1646.96 Lakhs instead of Rs.1575.00 Lakhs, Sl No-(3) Read as Rs.614.32 Lakhs instead of Rs.615.00 Lakhs, Sl No-(4) Read as Rs.432.43 Lakhs instead of Rs.322.50 Lakhs, Sl No- (5) Read as Rs.1075.88 Lakhs instead of Rs.981.25 Lakhs, Sl No-(6) Read as Rs.451.16 Lakhs instead of Rs.416.67 Lakhs & Sl No-(7) Read as Rs.558.08 Lakhs instead of Rs.425.00 Lakhs.** All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

O-2119: Sd/- Er. A.K.Naik, **Chief Construction Engineer, RW Circle, Baripada.**

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. — Mining Happiness

Short Notice
For sale of Cement Grade Limestone

The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd intends to sell Cement grade Limestone produced at Ampavalli Limestone Mines, Ampavalli, Pattangi, Koraput district, Odisha through e-auction which will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. The e-auction shall be held from **11.00 A.M. to 2.00 P.M on dtd.30.01.2026.**

For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e **www.mstcecommerce.com**.

CAD-3081 : **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (S&M)**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
Near Bana Durga Temple, Sankara, Sundargarh, Dist: Sundargarh-PIN-770020
Email: serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com
Via E-mail/ E-despatch

Office Order No.222// Date :.20.01.2026

1st Corrigendum

The date of availability of tender online/ date of seeking clarification/date of opening of tender for all the works invited under NIT Letter No.4409 dtd 02.01.2026 vide Bid Identification No: Online - **RWCCESNG-29 of 2025-26** are hereby modified as follows:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding upto	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Technical Bid Opening	Financial Bid Opening
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-29 of 2025-26	22.01.2026 11:00 AM	10.02.2026 5:00 PM	09.02.2026 5:00 PM	11.02.2026 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

All other terms and Conditions are remained Unchanged.

O-2123: **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.**

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

No. e-tender // 349 // RWC// BAM// Dated 21.01.26 E-Mail/E-despatch

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 48-2025-26/BPR

1) The partial modification of Road works under **MMSY-TRIP for the year 2025-26** vide above identification has been made as follows.

1.	Date of availability of tender	:	**05.02.2026 to 20.02.2026 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 22.01.2026 to 05.02.2026 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**18.02.2026 at 5.30 PM** instead of 03.02.2026 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**21.02.2026 at 11.00 AM** instead of 06.02.2026 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

O- 2126 : **Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur**

IN & OUT

Gujarat Giants names Jintimani as injury replacement for Titas

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Gujarat Giants on Thursday drafted in pacer Jintimani Kalita, *right*, as a replacement for the injured Titas Sadhu for the remainder of the WPL. Titas had joined Giants from Delhi Capitals ahead of this WPL season, but did not play a single match. Jintimani has played 13 WPL games for Mumbai Indians. She joins Giants for ₹10 lakh.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Relieved I don't have to bowl to Abhishek in the nets: Arshdeep

K.R. DEEPAK

Arshdeep Singh is relieved he doesn't have to bowl too much to Abhishek Sharma, even during practice. "Abhishek always says, 'I do not want to bat against you guys'. It's good for us that he doesn't want to bat against us [Indian bowlers] too much, even in the nets. He doesn't face our bowlers often," Arshdeep quipped.

DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

Phillips reckons Kiwis' extended stay in India has its pros and cons

K.R. DEEPAK

We've already been here (in India) for close to two weeks, and it would be one-and-a-half months by the time we are done with the World Cup. We have the opportunity to receive a lot more information than a lot of other teams, but we've been on the road for a lot longer than other teams — Kiwi all-rounder Glenn Phillips.

FIRST BLOOD

Sri Lanka gets the better of England in the opening ODI

AP

Sri Lanka scored a 19-run victory over England in the opening ODI at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium on Thursday. **The scores:** Sri Lanka 271/6 in 50 overs (Kusal Mendis 93, Janith Liyanage 46, Adil Rashid 3/44) bt England 252 in 49.2 overs (Ben Duckett 62, Joe Root 61, Pramod Madushan 3/39). **Toss:** Lanka; **PoM:** Dunith Wellalage.

Devine's all-round skills to the fore as Giants wallop Warriorz

The Kiwi legend scores an unbeaten 50 off 42 balls to lift the Gujarat side to 153 on a slow track and follows it up with a couple of scalps; Rajeshwari runs through the lower middle-order with a three-wicket haul as the UP side folds up for 108

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

On the back of an unbeaten half-century by Sophie Devine (50 n.o., 42b, 2x4, 3x6) and a precise display by its bowling unit, Gujarat Giants successfully defended a total of 153 for eight against UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League on Thursday. On a sluggish strip at the Kotambi Stadium, Giants' 45-run win was utterly convincing. Left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad, with figures of 4-0-16-3, enjoyed maximum success with the ball for the hosts.

Without Devine's knock, of course, Giants wouldn't have been in the contest in the second half of the game.

The 36-year-old New Zealander, who also took two wickets, made the most of a couple of reprieves after walking in at No. 5. She stayed through to the end, and capitalised by clearing the boundary twice in Shikha Pandey's 16-run final over.

Warriorz needed one of its top-six batters to show similar application. That wasn't to be as the visitors collapsed to 79 for six in 12.1 overs. Kiran Navgire and Meg Lanning fell inside the PowerPlay. In the eighth over, Phoebe Litchfield was also dismissed, her signature reverse-sweep – so often a productive option – off Ashleigh Gardner carrying to Renuka Singh at short third. With Harleen Deol hitting Renuka to Gardner at long-on just six balls later, the writing was on the wall.

Rajeshwari ran through Warriorz's lower middle-order.

Giants, too, had their struggles with the bat. In the PowerPlay, Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Anushka Sharma were undone by Kranti Gaud.

With boundaries hard to come by in the middle phase, Gardner tried to go after Deepti Sharma in the 10th over. Her attempt was in vain, playing all around a tossed-up delivery by the offie to fall for five off 12 deliveries.

For Giants to still mount a competitive total, the responsibility hinged on Devine. After three dot balls, the veteran slog-swept Deepti for a six over mid-wicket to get off the mark.

It was a clear indication of the type of track on offer that Devine, too, slowed down after that maximum. But it was a testament to her experience that she didn't succumb to the pressure.

Superb show: Devine proved to be the difference as Giants kept their playoffs hopes alive. FILE PHOTO

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS
Beth Mooney c Kiran b Ecclestone 38 *(34b, 5x4)*, Danni Wyatt-Hodge b Kranti 14 *(8b, 3x4)*, Anushka Sharma c Shweta b Kranti 14 *(8b, 3x4)*, Ashleigh Gardner b Deepti 5 *(12b)*, Sophie Devine (not out) 50 *(42b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Bharti Fulmali run out 5 *(5b)*, Kanika Ahuja c Kiran b Tryon 6 *(5b, 1x4)*, Kashvee Gautam b Ecclestone 11 *(6b, 1x6)*, Renuka Singh run out 1 *(1b)*, Happy Kumari (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-7): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 153.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Wyatt-Hodge, 2.6 overs), 2-43 (Anushka, 4.6), 3-65 (Gardner, 9.2), 4-93 (Mooney, 12.4), 5-105 (Bharti, 15.1), 6-115 (Kanika, 16.3), 7-131 (Kashvee, 18.2), 8-145 (Renuka, 19.4).

WARRIORZ BOWLING
Kranti 4-0-18-2, Shikha 4-0-53-0, Deepti 2-0-16-1, Ecclestone 4-0-22-2, Tryon 4-0-32-1, Asha 2-0-11-0.

UP WARRIORZ
Meg Lanning b Kashvee 14 *(10b, 2x4)*, Kiran Navgire st. Mooney b Renuka 0 *(1b)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Renuka b Gardner 32 *(27b, 5x4)*, Harleen Deol c Gardner b Renuka 3 *(12b)*, Chloe Tryon (not out) 30 *(22b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Deepti Sharma lbw b Rajeshwari 4 *(7b)*, Shweta Sehrawat st. Mooney b Rajeshwari 3 *(6b)*, Asha Sobhana c Gardner b Rajeshwari 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone c & b Devine 1 *(4b)*, Shikha Pandey run out 1 *(3b)*, Kranti Gaud b Devine 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-10): 12; Total (in 17.3 overs): 108.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Kiran, 0.2), 2-39 (Lanning, 4.5), 3-57 (Litchfield, 7.5), 4-59 (Harleen, 8.5), 5-67 (Deepti, 10.3), 6-79 (Shweta, 12.1), 7-93 (Asha, 14.4), 8-94 (Ecclestone, 15.2), 9-97 (Shikha, 16.1).

GIANTS BOWLING
Renuka 4-0-20-2, Kashvee 3-0-31-1, Devine 3.3-0-16-2, Gardner 3-0-23-1, Rajeshwari 4-0-16-3.

Toss: Warriorz; **PoM:** Rajeshwari.
Gujarat Giants won by 45 runs.

India will aim to fine-tune its arsenal in the second T20I

NZ IN INDIA

C. Shyam Sundar
RAIPUR

Team India began its final rehearsal for the upcoming T20 World Cup in style, thumping New Zealand on the back of a commanding batting display in Nagpur on Wednesday.

Abhishek Sharma's blitz at the top and Rinku Singh's fireworks at the end powered the Men in Blue to a mammoth score as the Kiwis were batted out of the contest.

The teams have now moved to the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium here for the second T20I on Friday with the home side looking to fine-tune its preparations further.

Abhishek and Rinku's excellence apart, skipper Suryakumar Yadav showed signs of regaining his form, which would have delighted the think-tank. The team will be hoping the smooth-stroking Sanju Samson, back at the top, can make it count and hit the straps leading into the T20 showpiece.

Southpaw Ishan Kishan, back in the national set-up after a hiatus, who missed out on an opportunity to score big, falling after scoring two boundaries, would be keen to get cracking.

All eyes will be on the ultra-aggressive Abhishek, who waded into the Kiwi attack, plundering eight sixes in his 35-ball 84. His form will be crucial to India's fortunes in this series and the World Cup to follow.

The importance of Hardik Pandya's presence in the side can't be overemphasised and he struck some lusty blows before Rinku took over in game one.

The irrepressible all-rounder then provided a breakthrough with the ball as the Indians made early inroads.

Despite Glenn Phillips' onslaught, the visiting side never appeared to be in the hunt and will look for an improved performance from the batters. The openers – Devon Conway and Tim Robinson – aren't ones to strike terror into the opposition bowlers, but will need to kick on quickly.

All that is easier said than done against an Indian attack comprising Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh, Hardik and Varun Chakaravarthy, who can bamboozle the best batters.

The only concern for the Men in Blue would be the fitness of vice-captain Axar Patel, who injured himself while bowling in the first match and couldn't complete his full quota. Incidentally, he was the player-of-the match in a win in the first and only T20I to be played here, against Australia in 2023.

A lacklustre show by the bowlers let the Kiwis down in Nagpur and they will be eager to get back to their best.

The massive total put up by India in game one probably negated the dew factor.

Dew is expected during the second match and no score could be safe as South Africa showed in an ODI here in December 2025.

Positive sign: Suryakumar's flicker of a return to form bodes well for India in the build-up to the T20 World Cup. K.R. DEEPAK

The teams (from):

India: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Shreyas Iyer, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Ishan Kishan (wk) and Ravi Bishnoi.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (Capt.), Michael Bracewell, Mark Chapman, Devon Conway (wk), Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Bevon Jacobs, Daryl Mitchell, James Neesham, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Robinson, Ish Sodhi and Kristian Clarke.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

We won't play in India, but hopeful of justice from ICC: Bangladesh

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

A defiant Bangladesh on Thursday refused to send its national cricket team for next month's T20 World Cup in India after the ICC rejected its demand for a change of venue, effectively paving the way for Scotland to take the country's place.

Bangladesh had been served an ultimatum by the world body on Wednesday to either agree to travel to India or risk being replaced as there was no credible threat to the safety of their players, officials or fans there.

The country was given time till Thursday to make its decision.

Scotland is next in line based on team rankings for the tournament starting on February 7.

However, taking a hardline position, Bangladesh's sports advisor Asif Nazrul, after a meeting with national team players, announced that the ICC's assessment was not acceptable to them.

"We cannot comment on this developing situation. If the circumstances change, we will issue an official media release on our website," Charles Paterson, head of communications of Cricket Scotland responded to a query from PTI.

"While our cricketers have worked hard to qualify for the World Cup, the security risk regarding playing in India remains unchanged. This concern is not based on abstract analysis...," Nazrul said in a press conference while declaring that the country won't play in India.

"We are not giving up hope yet; our team is ready. We expect the ICC to provide justice by considering our genuine security risks and allowing us to play in Sri Lanka," he added.

Bangladesh is scheduled to play four games in India (three in Kolkata and one in Mumbai).

Soorma's big win not enough

HIL - MEN

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

JSW Soorma Hockey Club rode on Jeremy Hayward's fantastic four to thrash SG Pipers 6-1 in the final round-robin league match, but narrowly fell short of qualifying for the playoffs of the Hockey India League at the Kalinga Stadium here on Thursday.

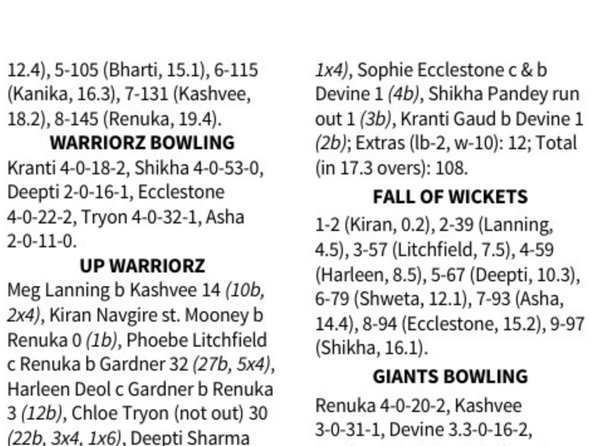
Soorma, needing a win by seven clear goals to displace HIL GC from the fourth spot, were tied with Hyderabad Toofans and HIL GC on 11 points but finished fifth.

Encouraged by their coach Philippe Goldberg's call to score twice in each quarter, Soorma pumped in three goals inside 11 minutes. Long balls in the air and along the carpet, mixed with smart passing, helped Soorma breach Pipers' defence frequently. Hayward launched two low flicks to convert Soorma's first two short corners.

Gurjant Singh dispossessed Gareth Furlong near Pipers' circle and passed it on to Lucas Martinez to make it 3-0.

Pipers did well to reply with some attacks, but struggled with their finishing. Soorma scored their fourth as Hayward unleashed an angled flick to achieve his hat-trick early in the third period.

Pipers patiently held the ball and pulled one back through Tomas Domene's powerful short corner goal. Hayward's fourth off a penalty stroke restored Soorma's cushion but that was not enough for a spot in the next round as Pipers defended with determination to spoil Soorma's plans.



So close: Hayward's Soorma finished fifth. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The result: JSW Soorma Hockey Club 6 (Jeremy Hayward 2-pc, 7-pc, 34-pc, 45-ps, Lucas Martinez 11, Nicolas Keenan 47) bt SG Pipers 1 (Tomas Domene 43).

The table: 1. Vedanta Kalinga Lancers: Played 7, Wins 4, Wins (s.o.) 2, Loss 1, Loss (s.o.) 0, Goals For 16, Goals Against 8, Goal Difference 8, Points 16; **2. Ranchi Royals:** 7, 3, 1, 2, 1, 25, 18, 7, 12; **3. Hyderabad Toofans:** 7, 3, 0, 2, 2, 17, 11, 6, 11; **4. HIL GC:** 7, 3, 0, 2, 2, 21, 18, 3, 11; **5. JSW Soorma Hockey Club:** 7, 3, 1, 3, 0, 16, 14, 2, 11; **6. Accord Tamil Nadu Dragons:** 7, 1, 3, 2, 1, 19, 22, -3, 10; **7. Shrachi Bengal Tigers:** 7, 3, 0, 4, 0, 16, 24, -8, 9; **8. S.G. Pipers:** 7, 1, 0, 5, 1, 14, 29, -15, 4.

Friday's schedule: Eliminator: Toofans vs. HIL GC (5 p.m.); **Qualifier 1:** Lancers vs. Royals (7.30 p.m.).

Practice and prayers — Arshdeep's success mantra

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NAGPUR

Braver batters and flatter decks have redefined the ceiling of T20 run-making. The series opener between India and New Zealand at the VCA Stadium, which witnessed a staggering 428-run aggregate, was just the latest example.

Pacer Arshdeep Singh's recipe for staying relevant during these games involves a bit of divine intervention and a whole lot of preparation.

"The first thing I do is take God's name: 'The wicket is looking flat... please save me,'" he quipped after India's 48-run win on Wednesday.

"All the planning is done in meetings and during practice. When you come on game-day, your target is to execute those plans."

The left-arm seamer, who bowled a creditable spell (4-0-31-1) amid the carnage, maintains that his rhythm is not hinged on whether he plays every game.

"There are a lot of benefits to being in and out of the side. Just like I'm in and out of the team, the ball is also swinging in and out really well," he joked.

That Hardik Pandya shared the new ball with the Punjab pacer, while holding back Jasprit Bumrah, was attributed to India's operational flexibility.

"The team's demands are considered while choosing the order of batters, bowlers, or even where a particular fielder should field.

"We must be prepared to adapt in these three aspects of the game. And that is our main motto," added Arshdeep.

Holding his own: Arshdeep returned impressive figures in the high-scoring opener at Nagpur. K.R. DEEPAK

INBRIEF

Rickelton, Stubbs replace de Zorzi, Ferreira in SA squad

Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs, on Thursday, replaced the injured duo of Tony de Zorzi and Donovan Ferreira in the South Africa squad for next month's T20 World Cup. De Zorzi had suffered a right hamstring muscle tear during South Africa's tour of India late last year, while Ferreira was injured during the ongoing SA20 tournament. The last edition's runner-up is also sweating over the availability of David Miller for the ICC event.

Top players to battle it out in Mumbai Open tennis

A strong international field will figure in the fifth edition of the L&T Mumbai Open, part of the WTA 125K Series, will be held at the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) in Mumbai. The 86th-ranked Kiwi Lulu Sun heads the list while Latvia's Darja Semenistaja (98), France's Leolia Jeanjean (103), Australia's Kimberly Birrell (94), Chinese Taipei's Joanna Garland (117), The Netherlands' Arantxa Rus and last year's runner-up Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand. The qualifying rounds will be held on January 30 and 31 while the main draw will begin on February 2.

Poonawalla to make a 'strong and competitive' bid for RCB

The ownership transfer process of Royal Challengers Bengaluru gained momentum on Thursday as Adar Poonawalla said he will be tabling a "strong and competitive" bid for the IPL franchise. "Over the next few months, we will be putting in a strong and competitive bid for RCB, one of the best teams in the IPL," tweeted Poonawalla, CEO of Pune-based vaccine-maker Serum Institute of India. He did not reveal the specifics – timeline or potential bid amount.

Mercedes unveils 2026 F1 car for new 2026 rules

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said on Thursday that F-1 would undergo "significant change" in 2026 as the team unveiled its new car. Fresh chassis and engine regulations are being introduced this season in a major shake-up in the sport. The team released digital images of its new W17 car on Thursday, describing the 2026 season as "the biggest technical shake-up in the sport's history".

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 8.45 a.m.
Men's U-19 World Cup: SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 p.m. & 5.30 a.m. (Saturday)
India vs New Zealand: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 2 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Late strikes boost Karnataka on the opening day against Madhya Pradesh

The visiting side loses Venkatesh and Patidar against the run of play; the host suffers a couple of setbacks as Mayank and Shrijith leave the field

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

When Venkatesh Iyer and Rajat Patidar held fort in the evening session, Madhya Pradesh looked in great shape against Karnataka on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B match at Alur (1) ground here on Thursday.

Against the run of play, Venkatesh (87, 135b, 12x4) and Patidar (30, 48b, 4x4) were sent back, allowing the home team to end the day on a high.

From a comfortable 233 for three, Madhya Pradesh slipped to 244 for five.

The visitor would be most disappointed with the manner of Venkatesh's dismissal. With only seven overs to go for close of play, the 31-year-old fell for the obvious bouncer trap laid by pacer V. Vyshak, skying a hook to deep fine-leg. The southpaw was well on the way to a third First Class century, until the lapse of concentration.

Prized scalp: Shreyas celebrates the wicket of MP skipper Patidar. K. MURALI KUMAR

Thirteen deliveries later, Karnataka was over the moon when skipper Patidar drove leg-spinner Shreyas Gopal to K.V. Aneesh at cover.

Coming in at five, Patidar was the most fluent batter on view. Patidar found stroke-making easy in the evening session, and threatened to take the game away from Karnataka.

The home team suffered a couple of setbacks when skipper Mayank Agarwal and wicketkeeper K.L. Shrijith left the field and did not return. Mayank was reportedly unwell.

Shrijith injured his finger when diving full length to make a leg-side stop. Kruthik Krishna replaced Shrijith behind the stumps. Krishna, yet to earn a senior cap for Karnataka, got into the thick of things when he took a good reflex catch to dismiss Shubham Sharma.

Shubham (33, 151b, 2x4) showed an unrelenting desire to grind, until he lunged forward to Shreyas and nicked it.

Opener Himanshu Mantri (39) was similarly keen to stick around. After spending nearly three hours at the crease, the left-hander was rapped on the pads by Vyshak. Himanshu's partner Yash Dubey (29) threw away his wicket, stepping out to left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty and lobbing it to mid-on.

Karnataka was glad to welcome back Vyshak, who was deemed to fit to play after suffering a concussion in the Vijay Hazare Trophy semifinal. Pacers Abhilash Shetty and M. Venkatesh, however, were ruled out with injuries.

The scores: Madhya Pradesh — 1st innings: Yash Dubey c Vidhyadhar b Shikhar 29, Himanshu Mantri lbw b Vyshak 39, Shubham Sharma c (sub) Kruthik b Shreyas 33, Venkatesh Iyer c Kaverappa b Vyshak 87, Rajat Patidar c Aneesh b Shreyas 30, Saransh Jain (batting) 6, Aryan Pandey (batting) 5; Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-6): 15; Total (for five wkts. in 90 overs): 244.
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-89, 3-164, 4-233, 5-233.
Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 12-4-27-0, Vidyadhar 13-2-33-0, Vyshak 16-4-51-2, Shikhar 27-4-70-1, Shreyas 21-6-53-2, Karun 1-0-1-0.

RANJI SCORES — SIXTH ROUND (DAY ONE)

Elite: Group A: At Bhubaneswar: Tamil Nadu 281/7 in 83 overs (S.R. Athish 50, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 78, Andre Siddarth 56, Nidhish Rajagopal 54 batting) vs. Odisha.
Toss: Odisha.
At Anantapur: Vidarbha 267/7 in 81 overs (Yash Rathod 104 batting, Kalidindi Raju 4/51) vs. Andhra Pradesh.
Toss: Vidarbha.
At Lucknow: Jharkhand 279/1 in 86 overs (Shikar Mohan 78, Sharandeep Singh 128 batting, Arayaman Sen 64 batting) vs. Uttar Pradesh.
Toss: Uttar Pradesh.
At Vadodara: Nagaland 206 in 57 overs vs. Baroda 139/1 in 31 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 55, Shivalik Sharma 80 batting).
Toss: Nagaland.
Group B: At Pune: Goa 209 in 82.1 overs in (Snehal Kauthankar 73, Jalaj Saxena 6/79) vs. Maharashtra 19/0 in 5 overs.
Toss: Goa.
At Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 139 in 56 overs (Sachin Baby 41, B. Aparajith 49, Nishunk Birla 4/40) vs. Chandigarh 142/1 in 34 overs (Arjun Azad 78 batting, Manan Vohra 51 batting).
Toss: Kerala.
At Rajkot: Saurashtra 172 in 47.1 overs (Jay Gohil 82, Harpreet Brar 6/38) & 24/3 in 6 overs vs. Punjab 139 in 40.1 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 44, Parth Bhut 5/33).
Toss: Saurashtra.
At Bengaluru: Madhya Pradesh 244/5 in 90 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 87) vs. Karnataka.
Toss: Madhya Pradesh.
Group C: At Agartala: Tripura 266 in 82.5 overs (Sridam Paul 75, Swapnil Singh 60 n.o., Mayank Mishra 4/59) vs. Uttarakhand 7/0 in 3 overs. **Toss:** Uttarakhand.
At Fulung: Assam 187/6 in 86 overs vs. Haryana.
Toss: Haryana.
At Kalyani: Bengal 340/4 in 86 overs (Abhimanyu Eswaran 81, Sudip Chatterjee 140 batting) vs. Services.
Toss: Services.
At Nadiad: Gujarat 175 in 55.4 overs (Jaymeet Patel 57) vs. Railways 78/2 in 26 overs.
Toss: Railways.
Group D: At Jaipur: Himachal Pradesh 314/4 in 90 overs (Innesh Mahajan 40, Ankush Bains 72, Pukhraj Mann 118, Nikhil Gangta 66 batting) vs. Rajasthan.
Toss: Himachal.
At Bengaluru: Delhi 216 in 67.5 overs (Ayush Doseja 104 n.o.) vs. Chhattisgarh 52/0 in 17 overs.
Toss: Delhi.
At Hyderabad: Mumbai 332/4 in 87 overs (Siddhesh Lad 104, Sarfaraz Khan 142 batting) vs. Hyderabad.
Toss: Hyderabad.
At Puducherry: Pondicherry 233 in 86.4 overs (Ajay Rohera 94) vs. J&K 0/0 in 1 over.
Toss: Pondicherry.
Plate: Final: At Patna: Bihar 328/7 in 88 overs (Mangal Mahrour 43, Akash Raj 50, Sakibul Gani 108, Bipin Saurabh 75 batting) vs. Manipur.
Toss: Manipur.

A dubious decision spells doom as Gill falls for duck

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

The 'C' ground at the Niranjan Shah Stadium complex offered the unmistakable feel of a routine domestic fixture: an open-air venue, compact dressing rooms, temporary enclosures for selectors and invitees, and a spectator count that barely exceeded the number of personnel on the field.

It was in these modest surroundings that Shubman Gill, India's Test captain recently left out of the Men's T20 World Cup squad, was hoping to make the most of valuable game time and keep Punjab's faint Ranji Trophy quarterfinal hopes alive against Saurashtra. Instead, it turned out to be a day of misfortunes for the stylish right-hander. On a turning surface, Gill lost the toss. When the hosts were bowled out for 172, the handful of spectators – largely families of the Saurashtra players – sensed that conditions would make life uncomfortable for the visiting batters.

Gill had to wait as Punjab sent in the left-handed Nehal Wadhera at No. 3 to counter the left-arm spin trio. When Wadhera fell to Parth Bhut, Gill strode out.

As he walked in, Manan – the young son of Saurashtra batter Arpit Vasavada – shouted "first-ball wicket" in anticipation. That delivery was negotiated safely, but the next one from Bhut slid on marginally, stayed low, beat Gill's forward defensive prod and struck him on the pad. Saurashtra appealed in unison and umpire Vinod Seshan raised the finger.

Gill stood rooted for a moment, visibly surprised. It appeared the ball may have brushed the inside edge before hitting the pad, but with no broadcast coverage, the decision stood.

Gukesh beats Nguyen; Fedoseev shocks Arjun

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

World champion D. Gukesh ended his spate of draws by defeating Thai Dai Van Nguyen of Czech Republic but overnight joint leader Arjun Erigaisi was shocked by Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia in the fifth round of Tata Steel Masters chess here.

Gukesh's timely victory ahead of the first rest day on Thursday put him on three points out of a possible five and went up to joint fourth spot behind three leaders.

While the game between Hans Niemann of the USA and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan ended in draw, the two were joined on 3.5 points by Javokhir Sindarov. Erigaisi slipped to joint seventh on 2.5 points, a point ahead of two other Indians – Aravindh Chithambaram and R. Praggnanandhaa.

The results (round 5): R. Praggnanandhaa (1.5) drew with Anish Giri (1.5); Arjun Erigaisi (2.5) lost to Vladimir Fedoseev (3); Thai Dai Van Nguyen (1.5) lost to D. Gukesh (3); Jorden van Foreest (3) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (2.5); Hans Moke Niemann (3.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (3.5); Vincent Keymer (2.5) bt Aravindh Chithambaram (1.5); Javokhir Sindarov (3.5) bt Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (2).

Liverpool cruises; Bayern through to last-16 stage

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Liverpool eased to a 3-0 win in Marseille in the Champions League on Wednesday as Harry Kane's double earned Bayern Munich a 2-0 victory against Union Saint-Gilloise that secured a place in the last 16 for the German giant.

Mohamed Salah made his first appearance for his club since returning from the Africa Cup of Nations, but he did not score.

Barcelona is among the teams involved in the fight for direct last-16 access after it came from behind to defeat Slavia Prague 4-2.

Atletico Madrid drew 1-1 away to Galatasaray.

Scoring at will: Kane heads in Bayern's opening goal. AP

Surprise package Qarabag is on course to make the play-offs after beating Eintracht Frankfurt 3-2.

The results: Galatasaray 1 (Llorente 20-og) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Simeone 4. Qarabag 3 (Duran 4, 80, Mustafazade 90+4) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Can Uzun 10, Chaibi 78-pen); Atalanta 2 (Scamacca 16, Krstovic 88) lost to Athletic Bilbao 3 (Guruzeta 58, Serrano 70, Navarro 74); Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 52, 55-pen) bt Union Saint-Gilloise 0; Chelsea 1 (Caicedo 78) bt Pafos 0.

Juventus 2 (Thuram 55, McKennie 64) bt Benfica 0; Marseille 0 lost to Liverpool 3 (Szoboszlai 45+1, Rulli 72-og, Gakpo 90+3); Newcastle 3 (Wissa 8, Gordon 30, Barnes 65) bt PSV Eindhoven 0; Slavia Prague 2 (Kusej 10, Lewandowski 44-og) bt Barcelona 4 (Lopez 34, 42, Olmo 63, Lewandowski 71).

Maharashtra Kesari posts win

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

Maharashtra Kesari beat UP Dominators 5-4 in Pro Wrestling League on Thursday. MK is second on the table now with 14 bout wins behind UPD (20 bouts).

The results: Maharashtra Kesari bt UP Dominators 5-4 [**Men: 57kg:** Atish Todkar (MK) bt Rahul Deswal (UPD) 15-13; **65kg:** Tevanyan Vazgen (MK) bt Vishal Kaliraman (UPD) 4-3; **74kg:** Yash (MK) bt Abhimanyu Mandwal (UPD) 5-2; **86kg:** Mykhailov Vasyl (UPD) bt Amit (MK) 15-3; **125kg:** Robert Baran (MK) bt Jaspooran Singh (UPD) 10-2.
Women: 53kg: Antim Panghal (UPD) bt Yusneylis Guzman Lopez (MK) 5-0; **57kg:** Tapsya Gahlawat (UPD) bt Manisha Bhanvala (MK) 12-9; **62kg:** Nisha Dahiya (UPD) bt Bilyana Dudova Zhivkova (MK) 8-1; **76kg:** Harshita Mor (MK) bt Hannah Ojo Damola (UPD) by Fall 11-13.]

Sindhu and Lakshya make it to the quarterfinals of Indonesia Masters

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
JAKARTA

Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen entered the quarterfinals of Indonesia Masters badminton tournament after securing straight-game wins in their respective round-of-16 matches here on Thursday.

However, it was curtains for K. Srikanth, Anmol Kharb and the men's doubles pair of A. Hariharan and M.R. Arjun in the round of 16.

Lakshya, seeded seventh, prevailed 21-10, 21-11 over Hong Kong China's Jason Gunawan in a contest that lasted a little over half an hour.

Fifth seed Sindhu, a two-time Olympic-medallist, notched up a 21-19, 21-18 triumph over Line Hojmark Kjaerfeldt of Denmark in her pre-quarterfinal that took 43 minutes to wind up.

This was Sindhu's fifth win over the Dane in their six clashes so far.

It took just 32 minutes for fourth seed Chou Tien-Chen of Taiwan to get the better of Srikanth 21-11, 21-10.

Anmol let slip an advantage against Nozomi Okuhara of Japan by losing 21-16, 14-21, 11-21 in four minutes short of an hour.

The Malaysian pair of Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun, seeded third, put it past Hariharan and Arjun 21-17, 9-21, 21-16 in 54 minutes.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Lakshya Sen bt Jason Gunawan (HK) 21-10, 21-11; Chou Tien-Chen (Tpe) bt K. Srikanth 21-11, 21-10.
Doubles: Man Wei Chong & Tee Kai Wun (Mas) bt A. Hariharan & M.R. Arjun 21-17, 9-21, 21-16.
Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Line Hojmark Kjaerfeldt (Den) 21-19, 21-18.
Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) bt Anmol Kharb 16-21, 21-14, 21-11.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sanket's six-for helps Presidency School make the last four

Sanket scalped six wickets (6/37) as Presidency School, RT Nagar beat Frank Anthony Public School by five wickets in the quarterfinals of the K.M. Ramprasad Shield U-16 second-division school tournament.

The scores (quarterfinals): Frank Anthony PS 166 in 32.4 overs (Ishaan Bohra 45, Sanket Kodekal Math 6/37) lost to Presidency School, RT Nagar 167/5 in 26.5 overs (S.V. Vishal Reddy 48 n.o.).

Vydehi School of Excellence 227 in 46.5 overs (Abhaychandra Kallapura 53, Navaneeth Kothapalli 56) lost to Kensri School & College 229/1 in 29.1 overs (Shamanth K.C. Raju 128 n.o., Pranad Satyanarain 53).

Triveni Memorial Educational Trust 230 in 45.2 overs (N. Bhuvan Tejas 103, Karthik T. Bokke 37, Bhumit Kumar 5/40) lost to School Vivekananda 231/6 in 40.2 overs (H. Dhruv Acharya 122 n.o., S. Lavith Nischal 40).

BGS NPS 297/4 in 50 overs (J. Sai Rochan 95, S.S. Abhinav 133 n.o., Pratham Rao 36) bt Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyamandir, East 119 in 31.3 overs (Anuj V. Onkar 3/15).

Stride FC routs Roots FS

Stride FC thrashed Roots FS 6-1 in the BDFA A-division football league championship here on Thursday. A minute's silence was observed in memory of former India international footballer Ilyas Pasha, who passed away on Thursday.

The results: A-div.: BTM FC 2 (Niranjai Babu 48, Sochan Shatsang 82) bt Income Tax FC 1 (Darin Marcel Christopher 13); AGORC FC 2 (H. Madhavan 66, Y. Jaikumar 71) bt Sniper FC 1 (M. Murshid 2); Stride FC 6 (Ginneithang Gangte 4, 25, 58, 70, 78, Imran Khan 5) bt Roots FS 1 (S. Karthi 67).

Djokovic and Wawrinka roll back the years to win in contrasting styles

The Serbian has it easy while registering his 399th victory in Grand Slam matches; the Swiss veteran prevails in a five-setter to become the first man over 40 to reach the third round of a Major since 1978; Sinner cruises but end of the road for Tsitsipas and Shapovalov; Keys to meet Pliskova

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka made it a day for the ages at the Australian Open.

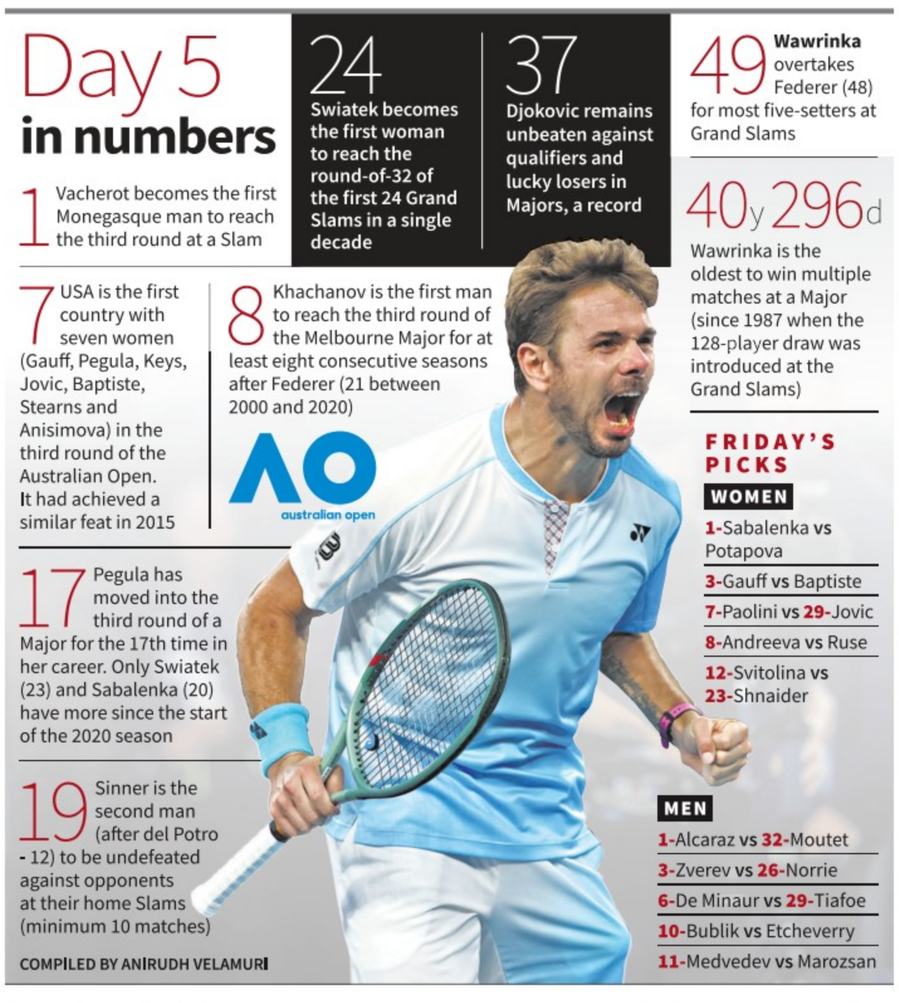
Djokovic improved to 399 wins in Grand Slam matches with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over Francesco Maestrelli on Thursday, making the 38-year-old, 24-time Major winner just one shy of becoming the first player ever to 400.

He's aiming to win an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title.

And if he does, he'll beat Ken Rosewall's record (aged 37 in 1972) as the oldest man in the Open era to win a Major singles championship.

The Rosewall name was prominent on Day 5 at Melbourne Park, where he was among the invited VIPs.

Wawrinka, at 40 years and 296 days, became the first man over 40 to reach the third round of a Major since Rosewall in 1978.



Longest match

It took a four-and-a-half hour 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-3) comeback victory over 21-year-old qualifier Arthur Gea in the longest match of the 2026 tournament so far.

Wawrinka, who is retiring at the end of the year, was one of three high-profile matches that finished around the same time, with Jannik Sinner continuing his bid for an Australian Open three-peat after beating James Duckworth 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

Eighth-seeded Ben Shelton, a semifinalist here last year, reached the third round with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 win over Australian qualifier Dane Sweeny.

Two men's seeds tumbled: Marin Cilic, the 2014 US Open winner, ousted No. 21 Denis Shapovalov and Tomas Machac upset 2023 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(5).

Defending champion Madison Keys was down a double break in the second set before rallying to beat Ashlyn Krueger 6-1, 7-5 and advancing to a third-round match against former No. 1 Karolina Pliskova.

In that tough quarter of the draw, No. 4 Amanda Anisimova fended off doubles champion Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-4 and sixth-seeded Jessica Pegula won 6-0, 6-2 over McCartney Kessler.

Bencic ousted

Pegula will next face Oksana Selekhmeteva, who upset 2025 semifinalist Paula Badosa 6-4, 6-4, No. 5 Elena Rybakina beat Varvara Gracheva and No. 10 Belinda Bencic was ousted by Nikola Bartunkova.

Iga Swiatek beat Marie Bouzkova 6-2, 6-3 and later said she's been trying to take lessons from Djokovic's attitude to sustained success and longevity.

Meanwhile in men's doubles, the Indo-Austrian pair of Sriram Balaji and Neil Oberleitner got the better of of Australian Jordan Thomson and Pierre-Hugues Herbert of France 7-6(4), 3-6, [10-8] to make the second round.

However, in mixed doubles, Yuki Bhambri and his American partner Nicole Melichar-Martinez crashed out in the first round, losing to the German-Chinese duo of Tim Putz and Zhang Shuai 6-3 1-6, [10-6].

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Second round: 5-Musetti (Ita) bt Sonego (Ita) 6-3, 6-3, 6-4; Machac (Cze) bt 31-Tsitsipas (Gre) 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(5); Wawrinka (Sui) bt Gea (Fra) 4-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10-3); 9-Fritz (USA) bt Kopriva (Cze) 6-1, 6-4, 7-6(4); 16-Mensik (Cze) bt Jodar (Esp) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4; 4-Djokovic (Srb) bt Maestrelli (Ita) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 8-Shelton (USA) bt Sweeny (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 30-Vacherot (Mon) bt Hijikata (Aus) 6-1, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Cilic (Cro) bt 21-Shapovalov (Can) 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; 15-Khachanov (Rus) bt Basavareddy (USA) 6-1, 6-4, 6-3; 22-Darderi (Ita) bt Baez (Arg) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; 2-Sinner (Ita) bt Duckworth (Aus) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2; 12-Ruud (Nor) bt Munar (Esp) 6-3, 7-5, 6-4.

Doubles: First round: Sriram Balaji (Ind) & Oberleitner (Aut) bt Thomson (Aus) & Herbert (Fra) 7-6(4), 3-6, [10-8].

Women: Second round: 6-Pegula (USA) bt Kessler (USA) 6-0, 6-2; Selekhmeteva (Rus) bt 25-Badosa (Esp) 6-4, 6-4; 9-Keys (USA) bt Krueger (USA) 6-1, 7-5; 13-Noskova (Cze) bt Preston (Aus) 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; Wang (Chn) bt 24-Ostapenko (Lat) 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 4-Anisimova (USA) bt Siniakova (Cze) 6-1, 6-4; 21-Mertens (Bel) bt Uchijima (Jpn) 6-3, 6-1; 16-Osaka (Jpn) bt Cirstea (Rom) 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; 31-Kalinskaya (Rus) bt Grabher (Aut) 6-3, 6-3; 2-Swiatek (Pol) bt Bouzkova (Cze) 6-2, 6-3; 5-Rybakina (Kaz) bt Gracheva (Fra) 7-5, 6-2; Bartunkova (Cze) bt 10-Bencic (Sui) 6-3, 0-6, 6-4;

Mixed doubles: First round: 6-Putz (Ger) & Zhang (Chn) bt Yuki (Ind) & Melichar-Martinez (USA) 6-4, 7-6(3)

Fallen seeds: Men: 21-Shapovalov, 31-Tsitsipas. **Women:** 10-Bencic, 24-Ostapenko, 25-Badosa.

Former India defender Ilyas Pasha passes away

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Ilyas Pasha. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Former India and East Bengal defender Ilyas Pasha passed away on Thursday after a prolonged illness. He was 61. He is survived by wife, two daughters, and two sons.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) condoled the death of Pasha, who was one of the best footballers to have come out of Karnataka.

Primarily operating as a right wing-back, he was renowned for his impeccable sense of timing, calm demeanour, and ability to read the game astutely.

At the international level, Pasha made his senior India debut on January 27, 1987, against Bulgaria in the Nehru Cup at Kozhikode.

He went on to earn eight international caps, featuring in two editions of the Nehru Cup (1987 and 1991), the 1991 SAF Games, and the 1992 Asian Cup qualifiers.

From 1987 onwards, he became a regular feature for Karnataka in the Santosh Trophy, representing the State at the tournaments held in Kolkata in 1987, Kollam in 1988, and Guwahati in 1989. He won two National titles with Bengal in 1993 and 1995.

On the back of his domestic exploits, Pasha was signed by Mohammedan Sporting, where he continued to enhance his reputation.

He later joined East Bengal and became an integral part of one of the club's most successful eras.

With the Red and Gold Brigade, he won the Calcutta Football League on five occasions (1991, 1993, 1995, 1996 and 1998), the IFA Shield five times (1990, 1991, 1994, 1995 and 1997), and the Durand Cup four times (1990, 1991, 1993 and 1995).

His trophy cabinet also included two Rovers Cups (1990, 1994), the Federation Cup (1996), the historic Wai Wai Cup in Kathmandu (1993), Airlines Trophy titles in 1990, 1992, 1995 and 1997, the Bordoloi Trophy (1992), ATPA Shield (1992), Kalinga Cup (1993), McDowell Trophy (1995, 1997), and the Super Cup in the 1996-97 season.

He was also a member of East Bengal's celebrated triple crown-winning side in 1990 and captained the team to its first international title at the Wai Wai Cup in 1993.

He got a special Lifetime Achievement Award from East Bengal in 2012.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560009

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Expression of Interest / IFT for Implementation of AMRUT 2.0 - AMRUT Mitra pertaining to CE(W) Zone.

The Expression of Interest in respect of the above said Implementation of Amrut 2.0 - Amrut Mitra pertaining to CE(W) Zone was published in The Hindu & Vijayavani on 19.01.2026 to be read as follows:

Published as	To be read as
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp/karnataka.gov.in only through KPP portal.	**The details regarding the tender and participation can be obtained by logging on to BWSSB Website www.bwssb.karnataka.gov.in**

All the terms and conditions remain unchanged.

DIPR/CP/YC/5163/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer (West)**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Open Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-0T-23

Sl.#	Description of work	Approx. Value
1	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 41,30,741/-

Open Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-0T-24

2	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/Bangarpet jurisdiction.	Rs. 29,03,996/-

Open Notice No.: BE-29-2025-26-0T-25

3	Zonal contract for electrical works under SSE/P/SMVT Bengaluru jurisdiction.	Rs. 33,53,330/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11.02.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General/Bengaluru
PUB/833/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari
IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2025-26/1871
Date :20.01.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-4)

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head for Account 4702 Plan APB** 1 work in Hosapete Taluk Vijayanagara Dist in Two Cover System **Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.200.42 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 16.01.2026 to 16.02.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 18.02.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 21.02.2026 at 11.00 hours**. Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I.&G.W.D.Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/924/KSMCA/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, (ಪೂರ್ವ) ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-24/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.01.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಜಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು						
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-65/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:14.01.2026	01	150.00	14.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	29.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ	30.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-66/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.01.2026	05	125.25	16.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	23.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ	27.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-68/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:22.01.2026	01	500.00	23.01.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11 ರ ನಂತರ	30.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ವರೆಗೆ	31.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ರ ನಂತರ

ಆಹ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಪಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1544/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025-26

GOVT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) YELAHANKA
Phone 080/28478088 Email: echsyel@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications for vacancies to engage following Medical, Para Medical and Non Medical Staff on contractual basis in ECHS Polyclinics **Yelahanka & Kolar** for a period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/till attaining the maximum age subject to performance & other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post:-

Appointment with reserve % of ESM	Minimum Qualification	ECHS Polyclinic and No of Vacancy		Fixed Remuneration
		Yelahanka	Kolar	
OIC ECHS (100%)	Graduate.	-	01	95000/pm
Medical Officer (60%)	MBBS	02	02	95000/pm
Dental Officer (60%)	BDS	-	01	95000/pm
Dental Hygienist (70%)	Diploma Holder in Dental Hyg/ Class-1 DH/ DORA Course (Armed Forces)	01	01	36500/pm
Lab Assistant (70%)	DMLT/Class1 Laboratory Tech course (Armed Forces)	01	-	36500/pm
Lab-Technician (70%)	B.Sc MLT or 10+2 with science stream, Diploma in MLT	01	01	36500/pm
Pharmacist (70%)	B Pharmacy/Approved iploma in pharmacy or 12th with science stream	01	01	36500/pm
Nursing Assistant (70%)	GNM Diploma/Class I Nursing Assistant Course (Armed Forces)	01	01	36500/pm
DEO/Clerk (70%)	Graduate, Class I Clerical Trade (Armed Forces), computer qualified	01	01	29200/pm
Peon (70%)	Education-8th /GD Trade Armed Forces	01	01	21800/pm
Female Attendant (70%)	Literate and minimum 05 Yrs experience in civil/Army health Institutions	01	01	21800/pm
Safaiwala (70%)	Literate and minimum 05 Yrs experience	01	01	21800/pm
Chowkidar (70%)	Education-Class 8th or GD Trade for Armed Forces	01	01	21800/pm
Driver (70%)	Education Class 8, class-I Driver MT (Armed Forces). Possess a valid civil driving license	01	01	25600/pm

2. For 'Terms & Conditions, Application Form and Remuneration kindly see our website **www.echs.gov.in.** Preference will be given to Ex-servicemen. For additional details please contact Stn HQ (ECHS Cell) Yelahanka Tele NO: 080/28478088 and e-mail echsyel@gmail.com also approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details.
3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website.** Application as per requisite format along with self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and work experience will be submitted to **OIC STN HQ ECHS STN EDN SECTION, Opposite CSD Canteen, C/O Air Force Station, Yelahanka-560063** by **10th February 2026,** any applications received after **10th February 2026** will not be accepted.
4. **Date, Timing & Venue:** Candidate must reach on **23rd February 2026** at **AFS Yelahanka** for the interview to be held between 10.00 hrs to14.30 hrs. Candidate must bring all the original certificate/mark sheets/10th/Matric.10+2& Graduation/ PG/Diploma/course, work experience and discharge book, PPO, service records and 02 copies of PP size photographs at the time of interview. No TA/DA is admissible. Only candidate meeting the Qualification Requirements may apply. Candidate must reach Station HQ ECHS Cell, Yelahanka on date and time of interview.
5. Selected OIC, Med Specialists, Med Offrs, Radiologist, Gynecologist and Dental Officer will have to carry out 10 days on job training (OJT) and obtain a certificate from OIC Polyclinic before signing the contract. This duration of OJT will remain unpaid and counted as mandatory before assuming charge as a contractual employee. Selected OIC, Med Specialists, Med Offrs, Radiologist, Gynecologist and Dental Officers are mandated to submit an Annual Property Return (APR) of movable and unmovable assets held with the candidates to Stn HQ ECHS, Yelahanka before tenanting.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-73/1722/2025-26 Date: 22.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-II (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below :

Name of the Work : (1) Shifting and Re-routing of existing HT/LT Line & Transformer passing over Industrial Plots at Sarathi Kurubarahalli Industrial Area, Phase-1, Harihara Taluk, Davanagere District. **(Reserve for Others). (2nd Call).**

(2) Re-conditioning, Operation and Annual Maintenance of Street lights at Apparel Park Industrial Area, Phase-I & II, Bengaluru Rural District **(Reserve for CAT-II(A)). (2nd Call).**

(3) Shifting and Re-routing of existing HT/LT lines and DTC at various Industrial Plots of Vemgal Industrial Area 1st & 2nd Phase, Kolar District. **(Reserve for SC). (2nd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **04.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5174/Zen/2025-26

CLASSIFIEDS MART

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Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHESHACHALA Sreedharamurthy Shanobogh, r/at No.106, Yelebethur, Davangere577002 have changed my name as Sheshachala Shanobogh vide affidavit dtd 20.01.2026 sworn before Notary J.Anand Kumar, Bangalore

I, KUMARA Suresha, s/o: Suresha, r/o: 33/5, 9th Cross, Someshwara Layout, Billekahalli, Bannarghatta Rd, Blr – 560076, Have Changed My Name As Kumar Suresha.

I, PRIYABRATA Sarkar, s/o; Birendra Kumar Sarkar, r/o: No–A1109, Brigade Millenium Apt, Mayflower Block, Kothnur MN Rd, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Blr – 560078. Have changed my name as Priyobrata Sarkar.

I, BHAGYALAKSHMI Manjunatha, w/o Manjunatha Gubbi Nanjappa, R/at No.24, Hari Nilaya, 2nd Cross, Byrappa Garden, Kathriguppe, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name from Bhagyalakshmi Manjunatha to Bhagyalakshmi vide affidavit dated 20/01/2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SARIKA VIJAYKUMAR**, age 40 years, W/o Siddharth Ramesh, D/o P. Vijaykumar, alias Perambore Vijayakumaran, R/o 6, Aarohana, 6th B Cross, Kaggadasapura, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-93 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **SARIKA, SARIKA VIJAY KUMAR, SARIKA VIJAYA KUMAR and SARIKA VIJAYKUMAR** are one and the same and belongs to me only, vide affidavit dated 16th August 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary Lakshminarayana at Bangalore.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MUMBER SECRETARY, RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
[Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001]
{Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com}

No.77 Store/SMS/MH/2025 Jaipur dated, the 08/01/26

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Neurovascular Item for Neurosurgery Department are invited from interested bidders up to 29/01/2026 on 05-00 PM. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

UBN No. MCJ2526GLRC00137

DIPR/C/701/2026 **SUPERINTENDENT MEMBER SECRETARY**

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
No.19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, Phone-+91-044-28554479,28554480
E-mail: hr@tidco.com
Website: https://tidco.com/ https://careers.tidco.com

Recruitment Notification

Notification No.TIDCO/HR/Recruitment/2026-2 Dated: 23.01.2026

Applications are invited for the following post only through online mode from **23.01.2026 at 10.00 am to 07.02.2026 up to 5.00 pm** from the eligible candidates who wish to join the services in Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO).

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Vacancy	Compensation	Mode of Recruitment
1	Consultant - Startup Engagement Lead	One (1)	As per industries standard. (TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	On Contract basis

For the detailed notification, qualification, experience, selection process, online application and other details, please visit our official website **https://tidco.com / https://careers.tidco.com**.

Managing Director
TIDCO

DIPR / 85 / Display / 2026

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajaji Nagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010. Tel: 080-22024000, e-Mail: cekrdcl@gmail.com, Website: http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDCL/IFB/2025-26/23 Date: 13.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The **Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL]** invites online tender as per KTPP 2000 Act and as per Standard Tender Document through KPP Portal **www.kpppkarnataka.gov.in** for the below work.

Name of Work: **Synchronization and implementation of Phase 02 of Adaptive Traffic signal control system (ATCS) along with emergency vehicle priority system in Bengaluru city with 5 Years maintenance under Bengaluru City Road Safety Authority and Traffic Management Project to Bengaluru City Traffic Police.** Amount put to Tender: **Rs.47,11,23,859.00.** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): **Rs.48,00,000.00 (1.00 lakh through KPP Portal and 47 lakhs through Bank Guarantee OR 48 lakhs through KPP Portal).** Tender Period (including monsoon): **11 months for supply & installation with 5 years maintenance period. 1.** Interested Eligible Contractors may participate in the Tender process. The details are available in KPP portal from **23.01.2026 onwards. 2.** The Schedule of dates for various activities is as below: **(i)** Pre-bid meeting is on **12.02.2026 at 16.30 hours** in office of the Joint Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, No.5, Traffic Management Cell,2nd Floor, Infantry Road, Bengaluru-560001. **(ii)** Last Date for submission of Technical and Financial Bids is on **21.02.2026 up to 17.30 hours. (iii)** Time & Date of opening of Technical Bids is on **24.02.2026 at 11.00 hours** at KRDCL Head Office. "KRDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons".

Note: Henceforth, any changes/modifications in the tender will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, KRDCL, BENGALURU

DIPR/CP/AAA/5173/2025-26

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No:53547/CMC/HPT//Tender/2025-26 Dated: 09.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

15th FC 2025-26 Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: 27.01.2026. TIME :4.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 28.1.2026TIME: 4.30 PM. 4) OPENING PLACE OF TENDER: CMC HOSAPETE. 1) **DMA/2025-26/OW_INDENT535472) Name of the Work :Construction of Proposed Mezzanine Floor in MRF Shed And Construction of Compound wall to Sy No.185/2 at SWM Site in Hosapete City,** 3) **Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 224.63**EMD Rs.337000.00/- any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours

Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/473

SUVARNA AROGYA SURAKSHA TRUST
(Department of Health & Family Welfare)
Arogya Soudha, 7st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-22536200 e-mail: directorsast@gmail.com

No: HFW/SAST/ADM/50/2024-25 P-4 Date: 22.01.2026

WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR RECRUITMENT OF POSTS

Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, under the aegis of Department of Health & Family Welfare is implementing Ayushman Bharath-Arogya Karnataka scheme and other Health Schemes. For the successful implementation of the Schemes, the Trust invites suitable candidates for **Walk-in-Interview for various posts** on **30.01.2026** and **31.01.2026.** The job entails work from office and field work. The selection will be made based on the Roster and Merit, accordance with the Trust norms. The Contract period will be for 1 year, extendable based on every year performance appraisal. The details of venue, date and time for Walk-in-Interview is as follows:

Posts:	1. Doctors - In Office Quality Cell 2. Senior Executive Doctors 3. Regional Consultant 4. Assistant Regional Consultants 5. Executive (Doctor)- 2A Claims 6. Project Manager-KASS Scheme 7. Team Leader-Doctor (Claims)-KASS Scheme	**Walk-in-Interview on 30.01.2026**
	1. Project Manager-IT, 2. Consultant (Training & Capacity Building) 3. IEC Consultant 4. Portal Management and Technology Unit, KASS Scheme	**Walk-in-Interview on 31.01.2026**
Time:	Registration : 10.30 AM to 12.30 PM. Computer Test : 10.45 AM to 01.30 PM. Interview : 02.30 PM to 05.30 PM.	
Venue:	Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, Meeting Hall,7th Floor, Arogya Soudha,Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023	

For details of qualification required, application format and other details log on to website: **http://arogya.karnataka.gov.in/sast/**

Sd/- Executive Director
Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust

DIPR/CP/5161/SA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notification No: 20/25-26/2ndCall/2960 D: 21.01.2026

Tender Notice (2nd Call)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Chikkamagaluru, Chikkamagaluru District, hereby invites tenders (2nd call) through K.P.P.P. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ for the construction of an Asphalting Road (Indent No: 18855) from Nandihosahalli to Sunnadahalli under the limits of Sunnadahalli Village, Tarikere Taluk. The estimated cost of the work is Rs. 65.00 lakhs. For the said work, details of the capacity to undertake or maintain the work, as detailed in the Standard Tender Document KW-3, should be attached. The documents downloaded through K.P.P.P. should be filled and uploaded from date: 21.01.2026 to date: 29.01.2026 up to 5.30 pm. The technical bid will be opened on date: 31.01.2026 at 5.05 pm. The financial bid will be opened on date: 05.02.2026 at 5.05 pm, if possible. In case of accidental holidays on this date, the next working day will be considered.

The announcement is to be read on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.For more details, you can contact the Content Administrator during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/25-26/145/1683

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No: SEE/Tr(Op)C-N/AEE(C)/JE(C)/F-341/2025-26/2795 Date: 22.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites tender through KPP Portal for the following works.

Name of works : **(1)** Tender Indent No: **KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1778/CALL-4** for Replacement of existing damaged, deteriorated and age old A.C sheet by galvalume sheet of 11 kV switch gear shelter and other allied works at 66/11 kV station premises, Platinum City, Bengaluru. **Estimate Amount (Including GST) :** Rs. 6,33,000/-. **(2)** Tender Indent No: **KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1818/CALL-4** for Replacement of existing damaged, deteriorated and age old A.C sheet by galvalume sheet of 11 kV switch gear shelter and other allied works at 66/11 kV station premises, WIDIA, Bengaluru. **Estimate Amount (Including GST) :** Rs. 5,00,000/-. **(3)** Tender Indent No: **KPTCL/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT1823/CALL-4** for Replacement of existing damaged, deteriorated and age old A.C sheet by galvalume sheet of 11 kV switch gear shelter and other allied works at 66/11 kV station premises, Hennur, Bengaluru. **Estimate Amount (Including GST) :** Rs. 6,03,000/-.

Detailed information regarding participation of tender may be obtained **on or after 23.01.2026** through KPP Portal **https://www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Additional information shall be obtained from the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elec.,)
Transmission (Operations) Circle-North,
KPTCL, UAS Campus, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560024.

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost	Start of sale / Last date
5946 Dated 20/01/2026 RIS2526SLOB00070	RFP for renewal of ATS, Subscription and Maintenance of existing IBM Engineered Machines at RSDC.	Rs. 13.25 Cr / Rs. 26.50 Lakh	20.01.2026 / 04.02.2026

Details can be seen on the websites **http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in.** Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**

Raj.Samwad/C/25/18260 **Additional Director**

Chamarajangara Dist. Co-Operative Milk Union Ltd.,
Kuderu Village & Post, Santhemarahalli Hobali, Chamarajanagara - 571 316
Phone No. :08226-234848, E-mail: enggchamul@gmail.com

No: CHAMUL/ENGG/M(E)/Architects Empanelment/2025-26 Date:22.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR EMPANELMENT OF ARCHITECTS FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS (THROUGH KPP PORTAL)

- Chamarajanagar Co-operative Milk Union Ltd.(CHAMUL) Chamarajanagar, is contemplating to build Civil Structures for the establishment of Ice - cream plant, Camp offices, ETP, roads and pavements and other developmental works in next 2 years. The Union intends to hire the services of reputed competent 'Architects' for planning, economical designing, and regular/periodical inspection of the proposed projects.
- In the event of exigencies CHAMUL reserves its right to obtain Architect services from any Architect other than the architects who will not be a part of the panel of architects also. CHAMUL reserves the right to accept or reject the applications without assigning any reason thereof.
- Interested reputed 'Architects' who have handled at least three Dairy plants/LMP with products plants/ice cream plant's, Civil works of an outlay of (Minimum) Rs. 20.00 Crores each in the past ten years and Architects having registered office in the vicinity of 200 kms from Kuderu may participate in the tender through KPP Portal under the existing system (Technical & Financial). Interested Architects may submit their tender through web site **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from : **27.01.2026**
2. Last date and time for Tender submission : **13.02.2026 up to 4:00 PM**
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on : **16.02.2026 at 10:00 AM**

For More information Please Contact Manager(Engg), **Mob No.8867915047** During Working Hours.

For Chamarajanagar Dist. Co-operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd.,
Sd/- Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಹಾಸನ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹಾಸನ

HASSAN INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, HASSAN (An Autonomous Institute under the Dept of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka) SRI CHAMARAJENDRA HOSPITAL CAMPUS, HASSAN

Website: https://himshassan.karnataka.gov.in/
Phone/Fax No.08172-231699, 231599,
Email:directorhims@yahoo.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: HIMS/TS/OGT/6/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, invites tender for Ward Attender Services to HIMS Hassan from the Authorized Agency in two cover bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 SI No Tender Notification No 01)HIMS/TS/OGT/6/2025-TNDR-HIMS-HSN Details Ward Attender Services Tender Uploading Date & Last Date 29.01.2026 to 27.02.2026 Estimated Cost of Tender Rs 314.14 Lakhs EMD (Rs)Rs 4.71 Lakhs Tender details can be viewed , downloaded and applied only through the e-procurement mode only website : www.kpppuat.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact/visit office during working hours.

Sd/- Chief Administrative officer, Hassan Institute of Medical Science, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/960/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26